

An illustration of a man with a long beard and a white robe with a yellow sash, standing with his arms outstretched. He is addressing a crowd of people in a city at night. The city is illuminated by lights, and a large crowd is visible in the background. The man in the foreground is looking up at him with a distressed expression.

UNIT 15 | SESSION 4

JUDAH WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE

2 CHRONICLES 36

CHRIST CONNECTION: Doing wrong things has consequences. But the good news is that Jesus took the punishment for our sins when He died for us. He came back to life! If we trust in Him, God forgives all our sins.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

KEY PASSAGE: The LORD is good to everyone. Psalm 145:9

STORY POINT: The people were taken from their land because of their disobedience.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Growing up, you likely learned disobedience had consequences. The people of Judah learned the consequence for their disobedience to God was exile to Babylon. Despite their sin and unfaithfulness, God was patient with His people, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Not only had God sent the prophets to warn and encourage the people, but He gave them good kings to help set an example as well. Still, the people continued to sin and worship idols. In today's text, the people of Judah find themselves in the hands of evil kings once more.

King Jehoahaz, son of the final good king, Josiah, was dethroned by King Neco of Egypt after only three months of ruling. King Neco made his brother, Jehoiakim, king in his place. However, Jehoiakim was captured by King Nebuchadnezzar eleven years later. Next came his son, King Jehoiachin. He also did evil in the Lord's sight and was quickly replaced by Zedekiah.

King Zedekiah ruled over Judah for eleven years. He is described as a hard and stubborn man that refused to turn to the Lord (2 Chronicles 36:13). In the same way, the people and priests became more and more unfaithful to God.

Because of the sin of the people and their disregard for the many warnings they received, God allowed the Babylonians to destroy the nation of Judah. The Babylonians took all the treasures from the temple and palace and burned them down. This all came to pass just as God had said through the prophet Jeremiah. God's people were captured and taken to Babylon. Yet, hope remained: after 70 years, God promised to rescue and restore His people to their land.

When we disobey God, we also face consequences. For those who have not trusted in Jesus, the consequence is eternal death in hell. The good news is that Jesus bore the consequences for all who trust in Him. The Bible shares how Jesus "bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). Our sin has been paid for by His death and defeated by His resurrection.

As you prepare this week, remember that we serve a God who is faithful to keep His word. Pray for boys and girls to understand the consequences of their sin, so they can experience the gift of Jesus' forgiveness and eternal life.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30-40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60-65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Play a right or wrong game

- Big Picture Question Poster
- "Right or Wrong" printable



LEARN

Tell the Bible story

- "Judah Was Taken Captive" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker
- small treasure box



LOVE

Paint treasures

- gold paint
- paintbrushes
- art smocks
- heavyweight paper
- plastic table clothes
- assorted jewel stickers

Make royal puppets

- paper lunch bags
- yarn (optional)



LIVE

Missions activity

- "A Moment of Vast Opportunity" missions video

Snack and transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "Find Letter B" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Dress like royalty

- royal-themed clothing items (robes, crowns, small blankets, and so forth)

Knock down bottles

- empty plastic bottles, 5
- ball



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

PLAY A RIGHT OR WRONG GAME

Display the Big Picture Question Poster within easy view of preschoolers. Print the “Right or Wrong” printable. Cut out the game statements and put them in a small gift bag. Make a game path in the welcome area by taping ten sheets of construction paper in a curvy line. Place children behind the first space. Let the first child draw a statement. Read it and ask if the action is right or wrong. If it is right, the child can move forward two steps. If it is wrong, he should move back one step. Continue to play until one child makes it to the end of the construction paper path. Review the big picture question as children return to their seats.

SAY “Welcome to church today! You did a great job playing our game. We are learning about more kings of Judah. Some of the kings were good kings and chose to do things that were right. Some kings were bad kings and chose to do things that were wrong. Our big picture question and answer says, **What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.** We know that the Lord is good to everyone. God was patient and loving with His people, even though they didn’t obey Him.”





LEARN the Bible Story

1 TALK ABOUT TREASURES



Greet the preschoolers in group time. Ask the children questions about treasure. Guide them to talk about gold, jewels, and other valuable things. Ask children about items they treasure the most. Discuss treasures that may not seem monetarily valuable, such as time, presence, and loved ones.

SAY “ In our Bible story today, we will learn about more of Judah’s kings. They did not obey God. God let the king from another country, a man named Nebuchadnezzar, take the people away. **THE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR LAND BECAUSE OF THEIR DISOBEDIENCE.** He also let King Nebuchadnezzar take treasures away from the king’s palace and the temple. Listen carefully to hear what happened! ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 2 Chronicles 36. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

JUDAH WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE

SAY “ God was patient and loving with His people in Judah. God gave them lots of chances to stop doing wrong things and come back to Him. He sent helpers called prophets to warn them. He gave them good kings to show them what to do. But the people kept sinning.

Josiah was the last good king of Judah. After him, Jehoahaz became king. Jehoahaz only ruled for a little. Then the king of Egypt took him away. Jehoahaz’s brother became king next, but he did bad things. So, God let the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, take him away.

Next, Jehoiachin became king. Jehoiachin did bad things! Nebuchadnezzar took him to Babylon too.

Nebuchadnezzar made Zedekiah the next king, but Zedekiah was also a bad king. He did not listen to the prophet Jeremiah, and the people sinned even more.

Finally, God let the Babylonians destroy the kingdom of Judah. The army took all the treasures from God’s temple and the king’s palace. They burned the buildings and knocked down the walls. God’s people were taken to Babylon to be servants. ”

Christ Connection: Doing wrong things has consequences. But the good news is that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. He then came back to life! If we trust in Him, God forgives all our sins.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle. Gently toss a beanbag to one of the children. Encourage him to tell one thing he remembers from the Bible story. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster to help preschoolers remember the story if necessary. Instruct the child with the beanbag to gently toss it to another friend in the circle. Invite her to share something she remembers from the story. Continue until each child has a turn.

SAY “ The Bible Story Picture Poster shows people who were not happy. They were not obeying God, and so God let Babylon take the treasures away from the palace and temple. God let King Nebuchadnezzar take some of Judah’s kings away. King Nebuchadnezzar even took God’s people away, and then he burned buildings and knocked down walls. **THE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR LAND BECAUSE OF THEIR DISOBEDIENCE.** ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush”:

The LORD is good to everyone,
Everyone, everyone.
The LORD is good to everyone,
Psalm 145:9

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 145:9. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage phrase. Lead children to say the key passage phrase while passing a small treasure box.

SAY “ God is good and loving. When the people listened to the good kings, God took care of them. When the people listened to the bad kings, there were consequences. **THE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR LAND BECAUSE OF THEIR DISOBEDIENCE.** God had a good plan to bring the people of Judah back to their land. And He was working out an even greater plan to rescue sinners through His Son, Jesus. ”

6 PRAY

Pray, praising God for His good plan in sending Jesus. Ask God to help us obey His wise commands.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PLAY A GOOD KING, BAD KING GAME



Play a game similar to “Duck, Duck, Goose.” Instead of using the words “duck” and “goose,” use “good king” and “bad king.” While children are seated in a circle, choose one child to be it. Invite him to go around the outside of the circle, gently touching each child on the back while saying “good king.” When he chooses someone to chase him, instead of saying “good king,” guide him to say, “bad king.” Invite the child who is tapped to stand up and chase the other child around the circle. The goal is for the first child to run completely around the circle and return to the seat of the child he chose, all before being tagged. Guide the child who was tapped to become the new leader. Play again as time allows.

SAY “The people of Judah had both good kings and bad kings. The good kings showed them how to follow God. The bad kings led them to continue to disobey God. Even though God gave them warnings, the people continued to sin. **THE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR LAND BECAUSE OF THEIR DISOBEDIENCE.** Doing wrong things has consequences. But the good news is that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. He then came back to life! If we trust in Him, God forgives all our sins.”

2 PAINT TREASURES

Provide children with gold paint, large sheets of paper, and paintbrushes. Cover tables and assist children in putting on art smocks. Guide the children to paint golden treasures on their papers and decorate with jewel stickers.

SAY “God was patient and loving with His people in Judah, but the kings after Josiah did bad things. They didn’t listen to the prophets that God sent to warn them. When the king of Babylon destroyed the Kingdom of Judah, the army took the treasures from the temple and the king’s palace. Even **THE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR LAND BECAUSE OF THEIR DISOBEDIENCE.**”

3 MAKE ROYAL PUPPETS

Give each child a paper bag and crayons or washable markers. Invite them to use the bags to make a “king” puppet. Cut out crown shapes to glue on the top of each puppet’s head. Consider using yarn for hair if desired. Invite boys and girls to draw a robe on the body of the puppet. Demonstrate how to use the puppets to “talk.” Lead preschoolers to retell the Bible story using their puppets.

SAY “Today we learned about some of the bad kings that led the people of Judah. These kings did not help the people follow God. Because the people continued to disobey God, they were captured and sent away from their land. Doing wrong things has consequences. But the good news is that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. He then came back to life! If we trust in Him, God forgives all our sins. When you look at your puppets, you can remember while God sent kings to help His people, there is only one perfect King—Jesus.”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 PASS THE BIBLE



Sit in a circle and pass a Bible around the circle. Ask the children to say one word of the key passage phrase and then pass the Bible to the next child. Slowly and increase the speed as you repeat the key passage phrase several times.

SAY “ Even though God’s people kept sinning, God did not give up on them. He was patient and kind. God sent messengers called prophets to warn the people to turn from their wrong ways. Because they kept sinning, God’s people were taken to a different land. **THE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR LAND BECAUSE OF THEIR DISOBEDIENCE.** They traveled to Babylon and became servants there. Even still, God was with them. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Show the “A Moment of Vast Opportunity” missions video. (Note: There is no narration in this video, so you may need to read the words to preschoolers.) Pray that God will call more people to be a part of missions teams in North Africa and the Middle East. Pray for Vera as she works with the Desert Dwellers. Pray that God will provide Vera and the missions teams many opportunities to tell the people about Jesus.

SAY “ A missionary named Vera must carefully plan how she will tell the people in a lonely desert area about Jesus. Vera calls these people the ‘Desert Dwellers.’ Vera says the Desert Dwellers are very grateful for new friends. Other missionaries come to make crafts with them and teach them English. These people help the Desert Dwellers learn more about Jesus. ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “ Doing wrong things has consequences. But the good news is that Jesus took the punishment for our sins when He died for us. He came back to life! If we trust in Him, God forgives all our sins. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 PLAY A LEAVING GAME

Greet the children in group time. Arrange sheets of paper into a circle on the floor, two fewer than children participating. Play worship music as the children walk in a circle on the paper pieces. When the music stops, all the children must stand on a piece of paper. The children who are not able to stand on a paper must leave the circle. Remove a sheet of paper and repeat until only one child remains. Comment that in our story, we will hear about people in Judah being taken away from their land to another country. **THE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR LAND BECAUSE OF THEIR DISOBEDIENCE.** Repeat play as time allows.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 36. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

JUDAH WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE

- God was patient and loving with His people in Judah. He gave them many chances to stop doing wrong and come back to Him.
- God sent prophets to warn the people. He gave them good kings like Josiah to show them the right way, but they kept sinning.
- After Josiah, the people were led by bad kings like Jehoahaz, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah.
- Because the people did not listen, God let the Babylonians destroy Judah, taking God's people and their treasures to Babylon.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush":

The LORD is good to everyone,
Everyone, everyone.
The LORD is good to everyone,
Psalm 145:9

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 145:9. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead children to say the key passage phrase while waving goodbye and pretending to leave.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for His forgiveness when we disobey Him and sin.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 MOVE AWAY

Form small groups or pairs of preschoolers. Give each group or pair a beanbag. Lead boys and girls to toss the beanbags back and forth, trying to catch them. Invite them to move away from one another as they continue to play. Encourage preschoolers to keep trying to toss and catch the beanbags, even if they drop them.

SAY “ Was it hard to catch the beanbag as you moved away from your partners? [Allow responses.] Even though it might have been hard, you did not give up. You kept trying and had a lot of chances to both toss and catch the beanbag. Today we learned a story from the Bible about how God gave His people many chances to follow Him and do the right thing. **THE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR LAND BECAUSE OF THEIR DISOBEDIENCE.** ”

7 DRESS LIKE ROYALTY

Provide “royal” clothing such as robes, blankets to use as robes, crowns, and other royal accessories. Encourage preschoolers to play out being good kings and queens as they dress in gender-appropriate costumes. Invite preschoolers to talk about ways they can be good kings and queens. Consider having one child at a time pretend to be a good king, and lead others to follow his actions and movements.

SAY “ Both good kings and bad kings led the people of Judah. The good kings tried to help the people know how to follow God. The bad kings led God’s people to do wrong things. Because the people disobeyed and continued to sin, there were consequences for their wrong choices. **THE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR LAND BECAUSE OF THEIR DISOBEDIENCE.** Doing wrong things has consequences, but the good news is that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. He then came back to life! If we trust in Him, God forgives all our sins. ”

8 KNOCK DOWN BOTTLES

Write the letters to spell Judah on sheets of paper, one letter per page. Tape each letter to one of the plastic bottles. Set up the bottles in a bowling pin formation. Mention that the letters on the bottles spell Judah. Invite preschoolers to roll the ball to try to knock down the bottles. Give each child two tries to knock them down, then allow another child to have a turn. Replay activity as time and interest allow.

SAY “ The people of Judah continued to sin, even though God sent prophets to warn them and gave them good kings to help lead them. Then some bad kings led Judah. They kept sinning, and God let the Babylonians destroy their kingdom. The Babylonians burned the temple and knocked down the walls of the city. God’s people became servants of the Babylonians. **THE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR LAND BECAUSE OF THEIR DISOBEDIENCE.** ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.