

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS DESTROYED

2 KINGS 17



KEY PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 13:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do Christians continue to sin? Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.

CHRIST CONNECTION: The kingdom of Israel was destroyed because of their sin. We all sin against God and deserve death, but God sent Jesus to die in our place. Because of Jesus, those who trust in Him will never be removed from God's presence.

STORY POINT: God judged Israel's sin, and Assyria destroyed the Northern Kingdom.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Hoshea was an evil king in the long line of the evil kings of Israel. In Hoshea's ninth year as king, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, put Hoshea in prison, and moved all the Israelites to Assyria. The kingdom of Israel was officially destroyed.

Why was Israel destroyed? Although God had been patient, the Israelites witnessed their kingdom crumble because of their unrelenting sin. God had freed Israel from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh and brought them out of the land of Egypt. The Lord loved the people of Israel, performed many miracles, and commanded them to worship Him alone. The people of Israel were meant to be set apart as the Lord's people, but they worshiped false gods and lived like the nations around them.

Through the prophets, God repeatedly warned the Israelites to repent and turn back to the one true God, but the people did not listen. The Lord warned the people, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep my commands and statutes according to the whole law I commanded your ancestors" (2 Kings 17:13). The Israelites, however, did not listen. Instead, they rejected God and His covenant and followed worthless idols.

As the people ignored God's warnings, He became angry. God judged Israel's sin and allowed Assyria to destroy the Northern Kingdom. He rejected them and cast them out of His presence. The king of Assyria moved the people of Israel out of their land and brought foreigners to live in Israel's land and cities.

The kingdom of Israel was destroyed because of the Israelites' sin. God's gracious patience lasted for years, but the people failed to repent and seek the Lord wholeheartedly. Like Israel, we sin, and all sin deserves death. Those who fail to repent and trust in Christ will be separated from God forever. Yet, the unfailing love of the Lord has provided the way for people to be forgiven and live with God forever. Those who trust in Christ will escape God's punishment of sin. They will not only find forgiveness but also receive the Holy Spirit who empowers them to live for God.

As you prepare for this week's session, pray for boys and girls to see their need for Jesus. Pray also that you would be able to clearly communicate the gift of the Savior, thanking God for sending Jesus to restore what we have broken through our sin and disobedience. Rejoice together in the fact that Jesus died and rose again so that we might be saved from certain destruction!



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- "Message in a Maze" activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- painter's tape
- construction paper in 8 different colors



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- alarm clock
- smoke detector
- timer

Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- "Captivity Crossword" activity page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- "The Northern Kingdom Was Destroyed" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- past Bible Story Picture Posters (optional)

Questions from Kids

- "Unit 14, Session 4" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- world map

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "Faithful to Him (Deuteronomy 13:4)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- dry erase board
- dry erase marker and eraser



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever moved to a new city? If so, what was it like? What do you think is the hardest part about moving to a new place?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Message in a Maze” activity page.

SAY “Today, we will learn how **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL’S SIN, AND ASSYRIA DESTROYED THE NORTHERN KINGDOM.**”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: JUDGE JUSTLY



Tell kids that to be just means to act in ways that are morally right and fair. Choose one kid to be the “judge.” Form the remaining kids into two groups. Assign one group to be the “prosecutor.” They will try to prove guilt. Assign the other group as the “defender.” They will try to prove innocence. Provide the groups with a scenario, such as a kid was accused of cheating on a test by a teacher. Provide details for kids, such as the kid usually does poorly on tests, finished the test quickly, was more attentive in class, didn't do the homework prior to the test, and was seen studying in the library. Allow each group time to develop their case. Then give each group two minutes to present their case to the judge. Finally, invite the judge to announce a guilty or innocent verdict.

SAY “God is always a just Judge because He is perfectly good and fair. He always does what is right. While God is patient, He will judge sin. Today, we will see how **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL’S SIN, AND ASSYRIA DESTROYED THE NORTHERN KINGDOM.**”

OPTION 2: CAPTIVE!

Use painter's tape to create eight squares on the floor, large enough to fit 4 or 5 kids standing inside. If space is limited, create less squares. Tape a different color sheet of construction paper to each square (yellow, blue, green, purple, red, orange, black, and white). Choose one kid to be it. Guide it to face away from the squares and close his eyes. When you say “Go,” invite kids to choose a color square to stand in. It will then call out a color. Kids standing in that square are “taken captive” and are out. If no kids are in the square, play continues. Play as time allows, removing a color square each round until only two squares remain.

SAY “Today, we will learn how God judged Israel's sin and allowed the nation of Assyria to destroy Israel. When the Assyrian king invaded Israel, he also took the people captive and brought them to Assyria.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I’m excited to see you and study God’s Word with you. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, we will be in the book of 2 Kings as we learn how the Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed by the nation of Assyria.

As we have learned, God sent prophets to His people warning them over and over again of their sin. But the nation of Israel did not repent; they continued to worship idols and rebel against God. In our story, we’ll see how **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL’S SIN, AND ASSYRIA DESTROYED THE NORTHERN KINGDOM.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let’s pray and ask God to give us ears to hear and hearts that believe His words: ‘Dear God, You are good and always do what is right. You are right to judge sin. Help us turn away from our sin and remember that through Jesus we can be forgiven of our sin. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ Why do Christians continue to sin? What is the answer? [Allow responses.] The answer is, **Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.** Let’s say that together one more time: **Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.**

The people of Israel were God’s chosen people, and He loved them. But Israel continued to sin and follow after false gods. God gave them many chances to turn back, even sending His prophets to warn them of the consequence of their sins. Yet, they continued in their sin. Like the Israelites, we are all sinners, and even when we become part of God’s family, sin remains a temptation. But we have hope: one day, God will make believers sinless like Jesus! ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ God had done so much for His people. He saved them from slavery in Egypt, gave them a good land, fought their enemies, and made His presence known through the temple. But Israel continued to turn away from God and worship worthless idols. God provided prophets to warn His people to repent of their sin. Last week, we learned how Hosea was a prophet to Israel and how his marriage to Gomer was a picture of Israel’s unfaithfulness to God. Today, we will learn how the nation of Israel would suffer the consequences of their sin. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 17:1-24. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Northern Kingdom Was Destroyed.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS DESTROYED

“ King Hoshea (hoh SHEE uh) was another evil king in the long line of evil kings of Israel. He would also be the last.

In Hoshea’s ninth year as king, the king of Assyria captured Samaria in Israel, put King Hoshea in prison, and moved all the Israelites to Assyria. The kingdom of Israel was destroyed. This happened because of the sin of the Israelites.

God brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt, freeing them from slavery. He performed powerful miracles for them and took care of them. He gave them instructions, including a commandment to worship Him alone.

But instead of worshiping God alone, they worshiped other gods. They acted like the people who once lived in the land the Lord gave them. They created altars to other gods and burned incense to them on every high hill and under every green tree. **They did evil things, just like the nations who lived there before them.**

God warned His people over and over through prophets. He said, “Turn from your evil ways. Keep my commandments and the law sent to you through the prophets.” But the people did not listen. They were stubborn like their ancestors. They rejected God and the covenant He made with the people at Mount Sinai. **They followed worthless idols.**

As the people ignored God’s warnings over and over, God became very angry. He rejected them, removed them from His presence, and handed them over to the nation of Assyria. The king of Assyria moved all the Israelites out of the land and brought in foreign people to live in Israel’s cities.

The kingdom of Israel was destroyed. Only the tribe of Judah remained.

Christ Connection: The kingdom of Israel was destroyed because of their sin. We all sin against God and deserve death, but God sent Jesus to die in our place. Because of Jesus, those who trust in Him will never be removed from God’s presence. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use Bible posters: Hold up past Bible Story Picture Posters as you review God’s past actions for His people.

Active listening: When you teach how the people were stubborn and did not listen, invite kids to place their hands over their ears.



2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ The Northern Kingdom of Israel had wicked kings. No king led the people in the ways of the Lord or encouraged them to do what is right in His eyes. In fact, they did the opposite. The kings led the people to worship idols, to be unjust toward their neighbors, and to act violently. Who did God send to warn His people about their sin and the consequences that would come if they did not repent? Look at 2 Kings 17:13. **[Ask a volunteer to read 2 Kings 17:13 aloud.]** God warned Israel through His prophets—men like Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, and Hosea. The prophets told God's people to turn from their evil ways and worship Him alone.

Even though the people heard the prophets' warnings, they did not repent. What happened because Israel continued to sin? Look at 2 Kings 17:6. **[Ask a volunteer to read 2 Kings 17:6 aloud.]** **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL'S SIN, AND ASSYRIA DESTROYED THE NORTHERN KINGDOM.** The king of Assyria invaded the Northern Kingdom of Israel. He took the Israelites captive and moved them to Assyria.

How did God feel about Israel's sin? Look at 2 Kings 17:18. **[Ask a volunteer to read 2 Kings 17:18 aloud.]** God was angry at their sin and removed them from His presence. God is right to be angry at sin because He is holy and sin is always wrong. The right punishment for sin is death. We all sin against God and deserve death, but God sent Jesus to die in our place. Because of Jesus, those who trust in Him will never be removed from God's presence. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Israel was stubborn and did not turn from their evil ways. God's Word warns us today to not be stubborn and harden our hearts (Hebrews 4:7). The Lord invites us to repent of our sin, trust in Jesus, and be forgiven. Those who trust in Jesus will never experience the punishment their sin deserves. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 14, Session 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can we not be afraid of the coming judgment?
2. Why is important not to delay trusting in Jesus?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Remind kids that Dr. George and Joan Braswell were missionaries to Iran from 1968–1974. **[Point to Iran on a world map.]** Tell kids that missionaries who travel to different countries often have to learn the language of the people. Ask kids if they can speak more than one language or if they know any words of a different language.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

SAY “ Before Dr. Braswell and Joan left for Iran, they were given the opportunity to study the Iranian language called Farsi. The Braswells were originally going to study Farsi in the United States, but they decided to learn the language in Iran. While beginning their mission work in Iran, they also started to learn Farsi so they could share the gospel in the language of the Iranian people. ”

Invite kids to say “Salâm” (Sah lõm), which means hello in Farsi. Pray for God to send more missionaries to Iran to share the good news of Jesus with the Iranian people.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Deuteronomy 13:4 together.

SAY “ Moses gave these words to God's people. But Israel did not follow God, fear Him, keep His commands, listen to Him, worship Him, or remain faithful to Him. However, through the Holy Spirit, Christians can receive help to do all of these things. ”

Write the key passage on a dry erase board. Say the key passage aloud together. Then erase one word and lead kids to say the passage with the missing word. Repeat, until every word has been erased.

Lead kids to sing “Faithful to Him (Deuteronomy 13:4).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Dear God, thank You for loving us even when we don't love You. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for our sin and giving us the opportunity to trust in Him for salvation. Please help us not give into our sin nature but follow You instead. In Jesus' name, amen. ”

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





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 2 Kings 17. Tell kids that 2 Kings 17 gives us the last details of the Northern Kingdom of Israel before it was destroyed. Share how the remaining chapters in 2 Kings detail the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Consider pointing out the location of Samaria (F10) and Assyria (D11) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Kings 17:23 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “ The Lord's warnings through His prophets came true: Israel was destroyed because of their sin. God's words always come true, and He will punish sin. If people choose to turn away from God and continue living in sin, not only will they be held captive to sin, but they will suffer eternal death as the punishment for their sin. But there is freedom in Jesus! When we trust in Jesus, God saves us and invites us into His family forever. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ What are the consequences of sin? ”

Guide kids to see that sin has consequences. When we make sinful choices, it still hurts us and those around us. The punishment of sin is eternal death and separation from God forever. Remind kids that Jesus took the punishment for sin when He died on the cross so that anyone who trusts in Him will be saved.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 4:17-18.)

SAY “ Read Revelation 3:19-20. What is the discipline of God meant to lead us to do? ”

Share how God's discipline is an act of love and is meant to lead people to repentance. When we face consequences for our sin or have our sin revealed, it is an opportunity to seek God's grace and forgiveness in Jesus. Everyone who repents and trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 3:11-12.)

SAY “ How does the Bible help us see our sin and repent of it? ”

Tell kids that the Bible is living and active. God uses His Word to reveal what is in our hearts and expose our sin. When we read Scripture, God's true words help us see Him and His Son, Jesus, and how they are perfect. The more we see God's perfection and holiness in Scripture, the more clearly we can see how we fall short of His glory. As we see our sin, we can repent of it, trusting God will forgive us through faith in Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 4:12.)

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: ALERT!

Display the alarm clock, smoke detector, and timer. Hold up each item one at a time and ask kids how the item alerts us to something. For example, the timer might alert you to let you know your food is done cooking in an oven. Additionally, you could talk about other alert sounds we may hear, such as a fire alarm, tornado siren, doorbell chime, police siren, and so forth. Emphasize how these sounds are often loud so we don't ignore the alert.

Invite a kid to read Mark 1:15 aloud.

SAY “ God's prophets were like an alert, warning people to repent. But the people ignored them. So, **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL'S SIN, AND ASSYRIA DESTROYED THE NORTHERN KINGDOM.** When Jesus came to earth, He also told people to repent of their sin. Unlike the prophets, who had no power to save people, Jesus can! The good news is that Jesus Christ came to take the punishment we deserve and save us from our sin. Today, don't ignore God's voice to repent and believe. ”

OPTION 2: CHAIN BREAKER



Form kids into groups of three or four and provide each group with two pieces of paper, scissors, and a stapler. Challenge kids to form the longest paper chain they can using the sheets of paper. Tell groups to count how many paper links are on their chain. Invite groups to line up their paper chains on the floor to see whose is the longest. Congratulate that group. Add up all the paper links from each group's count. Then staple the chains together to form one long chain. Emphasize how our sins are greater than the length of the chain. Next, guide two leaders to hold the chain, stretching it as far as it will go. Lead kids to run through and break the chain.

SAY “ In our story, God's people were taken captive because they kept sinning against God. The Bible teaches us that sin enslaves us like a chain wrapped around our hearts. God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin and free us from its power. Jesus breaks the chains of sin and gives us new life with God forever. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Captivity Crossword” on the activity page.