



ISRAEL TAKEN CAPTIVE: FOLLOW-UP FAMILY ACTIVITIES

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 Kings 17

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

Key Passage: 2 Peter 3:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why should we obey God?

We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

GROUNDED

Invite your family to discuss a time they were grounded or given a time-out...when they faced consequences for their actions. Were they sorry for their actions or just sorry they got caught? How can consequences be helpful?

SAY: Sometimes your parents or teachers discipline you by taking away privileges. When you disobey, you may have to sit out while fun things happen. In today's story, we will learn about a time God disciplined His people in a similar way. They were captured because of their disobedience.

HOT COLD GAME

Invite a family member to be "It". Hold up a small object such as lip balm, an eraser, or crayon for everyone to see. Instruct the person who is "It" to stand facing a wall and close his/her eyes. Hide the object somewhere in the room. Then invite the person who is "It" to begin seeking the object. Encourage the rest of the family to guide them by saying "cold" if he/she is far from the object or "hot" if he/she is near it. As the person who is "It" moves, the family should say "hotter" or "colder" to guide their direction. Your family may also use descriptions such as "freezing" or "burning up" to indicate proximity to the hidden object. Play until the person who is "It" finds the hidden object. Ask the person who is "It" to talk about the importance of listening to the clues.

SAY: Long ago, God sent prophets to God's people to warn them about punishment for sin. Do you think the people listened to the prophets or ignored them?

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RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT

Instruct your family to play a game of “Red Light, Green Light” using the traditional rules of moving on green and stopping on red. You may add in additional colors of light with different instructions attached to each, such as yellow lights for slow motion movement, blue lights for hopping, purple lights for moving backwards, or pink lights for dancing.

SAY: In that game, a red light meant you had to stop immediately or risk being sent away from the goal. In our story, we will learn about a time God’s people did not obey even though God repeatedly warned them to. We will learn how God disciplined them for their disobedience.

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Inflate a balloon if you have one or use a soft ball. Instruct your family to bop the balloon into the air. Each time a person bops the balloon/ball, he/she must say the next word of the key passage.

SAY: Great job! Our key passage comes from the New Testament and reminds us that God is loving and patient toward sinners. God does not want anyone to be away from Him, so He is waiting for more people to repent before He sends Jesus back to fix the world and punish sin. We don’t know when Jesus will return though, so we must keep on sharing God’s love with others.

DISCUSSION & BIBLE SKILLS

Distribute a Bible to everyone in the family or share. Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find the 2 Kings 17.

Ask the following questions. Lead your family to discuss:

1. **Who was the final king of Israel, the Northern Kingdom?** (Hoshea; 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 the Assyrians to capture Israel?** Did God give up on His people? Help the class 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.
4. **How is God’s discipline a sign of His love?** Guide your family 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.

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5. **What is the difference between consequences of sin and punishment for sin?** Guide your family 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 family see that Jesus' sacrifice was the ultimate and final sacrifice. Instead of punishing us, God sent His Son. Jesus took the punishment we deserve. 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.
7. **How did God punish our sin? How did God punish our sin?** Lead your family 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: 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.

JOURNAL & PRAYER

Distribute a piece of paper and a pencil. Guide your family to think about and answer the questions listed below:

- 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 any 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?

Discuss with your children as they write, invite them to share their ideas.

Then pray, confessing that like the people of Israel, we often ignore instruction or choose to disobey. Thank God for loving us so much that instead of sending us away, He sent His Son into the world to bring us back to Him.
