

Use Week of:

## Unit 14 • Session 3

# Israel Taken Captive

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

2 Kings 17

### STORY POINT:

Israel did not listen to God's warning.

### 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.



#### INTRODUCE THE STORY

(15–20 MINUTES)

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#### TEACH THE STORY

(10–15 MINUTES)

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#### EXPERIENCE THE STORY

(20–25 MINUTES)

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Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject](http://MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject).

## LEADER Bible Study

God's people had a history of disobeying God. Sin separated them from God. But man was created to know and love God, and God was working out a plan to bring His children back to Himself. Like any good father, God knows that disobedience needs to be punished. "For the LORD disciplines the one he loves, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights" (Prov. 3:12).

After the tribes of Israel split into the Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdom, God sent prophets to both kingdoms to warn the people to turn from their sins and obey God. Over the course of 200 years, the prophets Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Amos, and Hosea spoke to Israel and warned them of the consequences of their idolatry. They called for Israel to repent and turn back to God. But Israel did not listen.

God had been very patient with the Israelites. He had helped them in times of trouble and delayed their punishment because He is gracious and compassionate. (See 2 Kings 13:23.) But God knew His people would not love Him with all their hearts.

Finally, God had had enough. Evil King Hoshea ruled over Israel, and God allowed Israel's enemies to send the people into exile. The king of Assyria attacked Israel and laid siege to Samaria. Assyria captured Samaria and forced the people to leave the city. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed and the people were scattered, just as God had said it would be. (See 1 Kings 14:15.)

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. As you teach, point preschoolers to Jesus, the answer to God's promises. We too disobey God, but Jesus took God's judgment for our sin upon Himself. Jesus changes our hearts, brings us into God's presence, and keeps us there.

# The BIBLE Story

## Israel Taken Captive

*2 Kings 17*

**God had done so many good things for the Israelites.** Do you remember that God saved His people from Egypt when they were slaves? He sent Moses to lead them. God took care of them and gave them a new home. **But** after awhile, the people forgot about God.

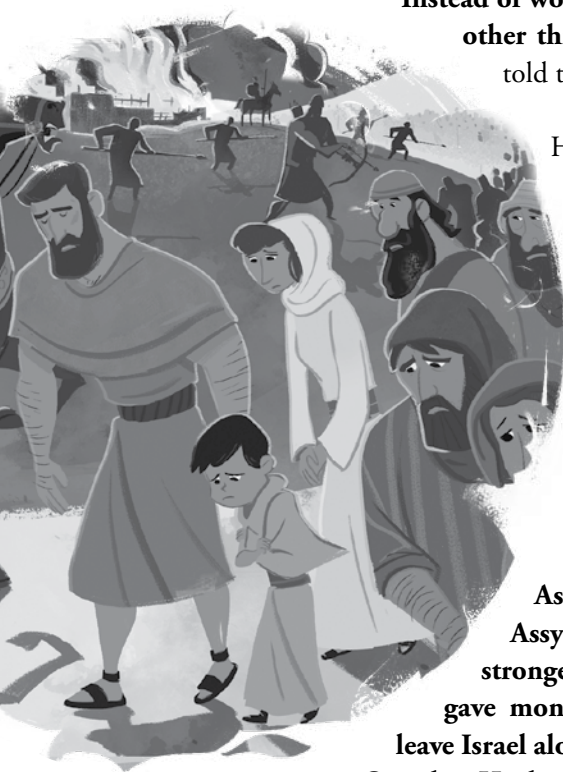
**Instead of worshiping God, they worshiped other things.** This is exactly what God told them not to do!

**God had warned His people. He sent men called prophets to tell them to stop doing wrong things. Did the people listen to the prophets? No.** In fact, they did even more wrong things!

**Hoshea** (hoh SHEE uh) became the king of Israel. Israel was a kingdom in the north. **King Hoshea did many evil things.**

**At this time, the people of Assyria were enemies of Israel. Assyria's army was bigger and stronger than Israel's army, so Hoshea gave money to the king of Assyria to leave Israel alone.**

**One day, Hoshea stopped giving money to the king of Assyria.** Instead, he asked the king of Egypt to protect Israel. This made the king of Assyria mad! He liked getting money from Hoshea. **So the king of Assyria attacked Israel with his big, strong army and**



**Hoshea was thrown into prison.**

**The king of Assyria took over the city, and the army made all of the people leave their homes. They started walking. They walked and walked and walked. The army made the people of Israel walk far away to the land of Assyria.**

What a sad thing to happen to the people of Israel! God's people were prisoners in another land, **but God was still in control.** God let His people be taken away from their homes because they had sinned. They had broken **God's** laws and forgotten about Him. This is why God said, "Enough!" **His people were hurting Him and themselves by continuing to sin.**

**God loved His people too much to let them keep living this way, so He let their enemies attack them and take them far away from home.**

*Christ Connection: God's people disobeyed Him over and over again, so God punished them and sent them away from their home. We disobey God over and over again too, but Jesus took our punishment for us. People who trust in Jesus will never be sent away but have a home with God forever.*

**Bible  
Storytelling Tips**

- **Travel with the story:** Identify a space in your church a good distance from your classroom. When you come to the part of the story where the Israelites walked to Assyria, lead the group to that space. Finish telling the Bible story there. Be sure to follow your church's security procedures regarding leaving the classroom.
- **Draw the story:** Illustrate the story on a dry erase board as you tell it by drawing simple stick figures.

# INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Israel Taken Captive

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 17

**STORY POINT:** Israel did not listen to God's warning.

**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.

## Welcome time

- "God Is in Control" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

## Activity page

- "Leaving Home" activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Guide preschoolers to use a crayon or marker to complete the maze that takes God's people to Assyria. Encourage preschoolers to try to stay in the middle of the path.

**SAY** • Today's Bible story is a very sad one. God's people were taken away from their home: the land God promised them long ago and had given them. Listen to our Bible story to hear why God's people had to be taken away.

## LOW PREP

- beanbag or paper

## Toss a beanbag

Take turns gently tossing a beanbag across the room. You may use crumpled paper if a beanbag is unavailable. Invite the group to count together the number of steps it takes the child who tossed the beanbag to walk and retrieve it. Continue until every child has had a turn.

**SAY** • We tossed the beanbag then walked to pick it up and

bring it back. You walked a short time. Would you be tired if you walked for days and days? In our Bible story today, the people of Israel had to walk a long way. They had to leave their homes. Listen to our Bible story to hear why they had to leave their homes and walk so far.

## Sort money

Set out a variety of coins. Invite preschoolers to sort the coins. They may sort by size, color, or matching coins. Suggest preschoolers put like coins in cups. Make sure preschoolers do not put the coins in their mouths. Sanitize hands after handling coins.

- Allergy Alert
- various coins
- cups
- hand sanitizer

**SAY** • In today's Bible story, Israel had a king named Hoshea. King Hoshea was afraid of Assyria's army because it was bigger and stronger than Israel's army. King Hoshea gave money to the king of Assyria to leave Israel alone. Listen to hear how God used the king of Assyria in His plan to turn Israel back to Him.

## Transition to teach the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Give directions such as jump, hop, skip, and twirl as children move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

# TEACH the Story



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## Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at 2 Kings 17 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** • There is no other book like the Bible in the whole world. The Bible is God's Word, and God's Word is true. Our Bible story today is from 2 Kings in the Old Testament.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Israel Taken Captive" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

**SAY** • God's people disobeyed Him over and over again. **Israel did not listen to God's warning.** God loved His people too much to let them keep living this way, so He punished them and sent them away from their home. We disobey God over and over again too, but Jesus took our punishment for us. People who trust in Jesus will never be sent away but have a home with God forever.

## Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at 2 Peter 3:9. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Review the key passage using the motions you created. Guide the girls to say the key passage together and then the boys. Repeat several times.

**SAY** • God wanted His people to repent, to stop sinning and obey Him. God was patient and gave them many chances to turn back to Him, but they did not listen to Him. When we sin, we can tell God we are sorry. God forgives our sin because Jesus took our punishment when He died on the cross.

Sing the key passage song, “The Lord Is Patient With You,” and the theme song, “God Is in Control.”

- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “The Lord Is Patient With You” song
- “God Is in Control” song

## Learn the big picture question

**SAY** • Our big picture question reminds us why we should obey God the first time. Say it with me. ***Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.***

- Big Picture Question Poster



## Missions moment

Show the picture from Bill Wallace’s life in China.

**SAY** • Bill Wallace was a doctor who obeyed God and went to China. One day, it became very dangerous for the people at the hospital. Dr. Wallace and other hospital workers moved the patients into boats to take them to a safe place. He kept helping them, even when they were moving back and forth on the boat!

Pray for missionaries who help people around the world.

- “Bill Wallace in China Photo” printable

## Pray and transition to experience the story



# EXPERIENCE the Story



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## LOW PREP

• walking rope  
(optional)

Tip: Follow your church's security procedures for leaving the classroom.

### Take a walk

Lead preschoolers on a walk around the church. Use a walking rope if available. Walk outside if weather and safety permit. As you walk, talk about how the Israelites must have felt walking away from their homes to Assyria.

**SAY** • The Assyrian army made the people of Israel walk far away to the land of Assyria. God let this happen because His people disobeyed Him over and over again. God loved His people too much to let them keep disobeying Him. God loves us and wants us to obey Him too. *Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.*

## LOW PREP

### Listen and do

Form groups of three preschoolers. Assign each child in the group a number 1, 2, or 3. Designate *child 1* to be the leader of the group. Encourage him or her to give a direction for the other two children to follow such as, "Jump three times" or "Touch a windowsill and come back to our group." After a few minutes, say, "Freeze." Send all children back to their groups. Announce that *child 2* is the new leader and will give the directions. Continue by giving *child 3* an opportunity to be the leader.

**SAY** • Great job listening to your leaders and obeying their directions. The people of Israel did not obey God’s directions. God said to worship only Him, but they worshiped other things. **Israel did not listen to God’s warning.** God’s people disobeyed Him over and over again, so God punished them and sent them away from their home. We disobey God over and over again too, but Jesus took our punishment for us. People who trust in Jesus will never be sent away but have a home with God forever.

## Decorate a king’s crown

Print a “Crown” printable for each child. Provide a variety of jewel-colored or glittery scrapbook papers, scissors, decorative hole punches, glue sticks, and markers. Encourage each child to cut out his crown and then decorate it by punching or cutting shapes from the paper and gluing them in place. Precut crowns for younger preschoolers. Help children tape their completed crowns together to fit their heads.

**SAY** • The people of Israel had a king, Hoshea. King Hoshea did many evil things. He and the people of **Israel did not listen to God’s warning,** so God punished them and sent them away from their home. We disobey God over and over again too, but Jesus took our punishment for us. People who trust in Jesus will never be sent away but have a home with God forever.

- “Crown” printable, 1 per child
- jewel-colored or glittery scrapbook paper
- blunt-tipped scissors
- decorative hole punches
- markers
- glue sticks
- clear tape

## Think and move

Print the “Obey/Disobey” printable. Tape the two signs on opposite sides of the room. Cut apart the scenario cards.

- “Obey/Disobey” printable
- tape
- scissors (adult use)
- bag or basket

Place the cards in a bag or basket. Invite a child to draw one. Read the scenario to the children. Encourage them to move to the sign that answers the question.

**SAY** • I don't know about you, but I don't always obey. Sometimes I make wrong choices. I'm so glad that God never stops loving me like He never stopped loving His people. *Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.* God never stops loving you when you disobey either. God loves us so much that He made a plan to forgive us for when we disobey, or sin. God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, we will never be sent away but have a home with God forever.



### "Rescue" babies

Create a "boat" by either setting up chairs to be seats on a boat or simply spreading a blanket on the floor. Explain to preschoolers that you need help getting the babies safely on the boat. Guide them to wrap the babies in blankets and gently carry them onto the boat. Invite preschoolers to sway back and forth, as if on a boat, as you tell them about Dr. Bill Wallace.

**SAY** • Missionary Dr. Bill Wallace helped carry sick people onto a boat in China so that he could take them to a safe town. He loved them and wanted them to be safe and healthy. He loved them because God loves them. Bill Wallace obeyed God when he went to China. *Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.*

- chairs or blanket
- baby dolls
- doll blankets

## Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve apple slices for snack. Point out that apple slices are shaped a little like ears. Remind preschoolers that **Israel did not listen to God's warning**. The people did not listen and continued to sin, so God sent them away from their home. We disobey God over and over again too, but Jesus took our punishment for us. People who trust in Jesus will never be sent away but have a home with God forever.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Whom did God send to tell the people to stop doing wrong things? (*men called prophets*)
2. What did the Assyrian army make all the Israelites do? (*leave their homes and walk to Assyria*)
3. Why did God let the army make the Israelites prisoners? (*They would not stop sinning.*)
4. ***Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.***

## Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- apple slices (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "The Lord Is Patient With You" song
- "God Is in Control" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers