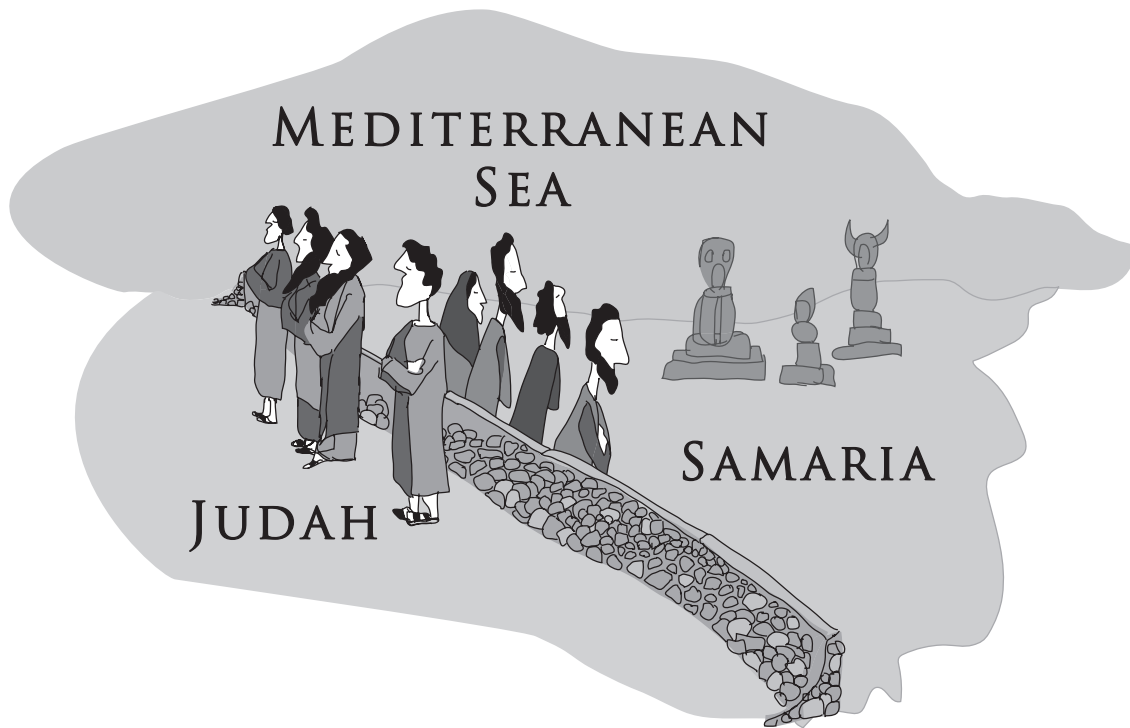


LESSON 67

# The Fall of Israel

2 KINGS 17:6-15



BIBLE TRUTH

JUDGMENT COMES TO THOSE WHO REFUSE THE LOVING WARNINGS OF GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

**1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** Optional: water-soluble black marker or ink pad, paper, moist towelettes for cleanup, puppet

**2. BIBLE VSTORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 67)

**3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

**Where Is Jesus?**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

**4. SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** Snack food/water

**5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5–10 MIN**

**6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN**

**Coloring Page 67**

**SUPPLIES:** markers/crayons

**Idols under Every Tree**

**SUPPLIES:** 100 copies of a picture of a bull with horns, several plants or artificial trees

**Warning after Warning**

**SUPPLIES:** yellow caution tape; two mousetraps; long wooden stick to set off the traps (glue a paper mouse to the end of the sticks)

**7. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

**TOTAL 60–75 MIN**

THE LESSON

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today's lesson the children will learn that God is a judge who will punish his people for disobeying.

Teach the following phrases and names to the children, helping them see the evil of some and the glory of others.

- Asherah poles—something people use to worship idols
- Baal—the name of a false god
- The God of Israel—a reference to God
- High places—the hills/mountains where people would worship idols
- Idols—the general name for things we worship other than God
- The Lord—a name for God
- Sacred stones—tools used to worship idols
- The presence of the Lord—when we are standing with God

Tell the children that it is important to tell the difference between what we should worship and what we should not. Have the children give a thumbs-up each time you reference God and a thumbs-down each time you use a name for an idol.

- Asherah poles—thumbs down
- Baal—thumbs down
- The God of Israel—thumbs up
- High places—thumbs down
- Idols—thumbs down
- The Lord—thumbs up
- Sacred stones—thumbs down
- The presence of the Lord—thumbs up

Go over this a couple of times changing the order around until the children understand what is good and what is evil. Also, you may want to have them give a sour expression when they give the thumbs down.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 67, “The Fall of Israel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What bad thing is happening in Israel?  
*(Israel has not listened to God’s prophets and is worshiping false gods.)*
- What did God do to Israel when they ignored his warnings and worshiped false gods?  
*(God had the king of Assyria capture their city and carry the Israelites away.)*
- What can we learn from this story?  
*(We learn that it is not good to disobey God. When you disobey God you receive bad consequences.)*

**SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- Did God have to give Israel prophets and warnings?  
*(No, God didn’t have to give Israel any warnings. God could have allowed them to be captured sooner than they were.)*
- Has anyone ever given you a warning?  
*(Help them understand that a warning doesn’t just have to be about sin. It could be a warning from their mom not to run into the street without looking or a word of caution to be careful when they are holding a sharp knife. Help the children understand that they get warnings all the time.)*
- Why do people and God give us warnings?  
*(God and our parents and friends give us warnings because they love us and don’t want to see harm come to us. God’s rules protect us from the harm that sin brings into our lives. Israel didn’t follow God and in the end God had to judge them.)*

## Where Is Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

Passage: 2 Kings 17:15–17

When you look at Israel’s history, you can see the consequences that came to them when they turned away from the Lord. Their sin got so bad that in the end they were killing their children as sacrifices to their false gods.

God could have completely destroyed all of Israel because of their sin, but he didn’t because he had a plan to save his people. Although the northern kingdom was defeated and captured, God spared Jerusalem in the south. No matter how bad Israel’s sin became, the Lord did not abandon his people because he loved them. Later, when God allowed Jerusalem to be defeated, captured, and taken to Babylon, their captivity would last for only seventy years.

### **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5–10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

### **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. . . . . 20–30 MIN**

#### **Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page 67—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Who are the men in the picture?**  
*(These are men of Israel.)*
- **Why are they chained?**  
*(They are being carried away from their land by the Assyrians.)*

■ Why is God allowing this to happen?

*(Israel ignored God's warnings and worshiped false gods instead of the Lord.)*

### Idols under Every Tree

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ one hundred copies of a picture of a bull with horns
- ✓ several plants or artificial trees

Instructions prior to class: place the pictures near and around the plants or trees you bring in.

Ask the children what is different about your classroom. See if they can guess what the pictures represent. Tell them they are false gods and ask them what they think of so many false gods being placed in the room.

Read 2 Kings 17:7–10. When you get to verse 10 stop and explain to the class that to serve an idol means you don't serve God though you might still go through the motions of serving and worshiping. Israel had stopped worshiping the Lord and had turned away from the Lord.

Ask the class if they know what God did about it. Read 2 Kings 17:6 and explain that God had the king of Assyria defeat the Israelites and carry many of them away. Israel was completely defeated and never again came back to power.

The northern half of the kingdom was now captured. Ask them if they remember how Ahijah had torn his shirt into twelve pieces. The ten tribes given to Jeroboam were now destroyed. All that was left was Jerusalem and the tribe of Judah that God had given to Solomon's son.

### Warning after Warning

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ yellow caution tape
- ✓ two mousetraps
- ✓ long wooden stick to set off the traps (glue a paper mouse to the end of the sticks)

Set the traps and place them on a table. Place four chairs all around the table and tie the caution tape around the chairs. When the children come in let them look

at the traps but not touch the yellow caution tape. If anyone touches the tape say, “Be careful.” Tell the children you have set up the traps to catch a mouse just in case there are some in the classroom.

Ask the class:

- Do you know why there is tape set up around the traps?  
*(The tape is a warning so no children get caught by the traps.)*
  
- What would happen if a child got a finger caught in a trap?  
*(It would hurt.)*

Show them how the traps work by telling them a story of a mouse that wanted the cheese and went to the trap to get some and got *caught!* Set off the trap with the mouse on a stick.

Read 2 Kings 17:13–14: “The Lord warned Israel and Judah by every prophet.... But they would not listen.”

- Why would Israel not listen?  
*(2 Kings 17:14 says they did not believe.)*
  
- What would happen to someone who didn’t believe me that mousetraps are dangerous and tried to pick one up?  
*(They would get their finger hurt.)*
  
- Is that what happened to Israel?  
*(Yes, they ended up serving false gods, and then God used the king of Assyria like a mousetrap to teach them a lesson.)*
  
- What did the king of Assyria do?  
*(He captured Israel and carried the Israelites away.)*

**PRAY** ..... **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today’s lesson was about.

