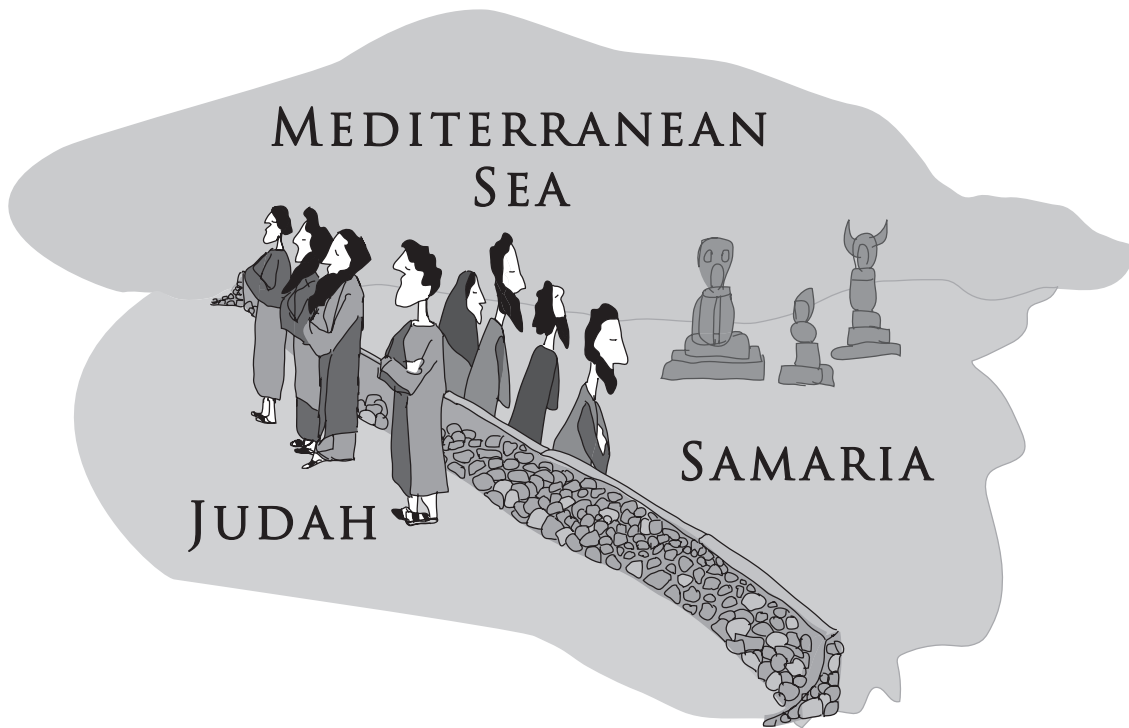


LESSON 67

The Fall of Israel

2 KINGS 17:1-20



BIBLE TRUTH

JUDGMENT COMES TO THOSE WHO REFUSE THE LOVING WARNINGS OF GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read 2 Kings 17:1–20 from the Scriptures or read story 67, “The Fall of Israel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
You Reap What You Sow
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ a bag full of recognizable seeds such as grass seed, feed corn, acorns, or sunflower seeds (Avoid odd seeds that the children would not know.)
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
I Warned You
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ paper shredder
 - ✓ miscellaneous papers
 - ✓ clear plastic trash bag
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 67—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Find the Sin
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ two calves cut out from gold-colored gift wrap or paper purchased at a craft store (Find a simple image of a calf on the Internet.)
 - ✓ tape

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Israel loses all faith in God—This week’s lesson picks up 130 years after our last lesson. Israel and Judah have continued to be ruled by kings who have mostly abandoned or ignored the ways of God although Israel has been much worse than Judah.

Shortly after King Hoshea starts his reign over Israel in Samaria, the king of Assyria threatens to invade. To avoid this, Hoshea, instead of seeking God, surrenders. He and his nation no longer have any faith or trust in God. Instead of asking God for help, Hoshea secretly sends messengers to Egypt to ask for help. Hoshea then stops paying Assyria the money they had demanded.

In response, the king of Assyria arrests Hoshea, surrounds Israel with his army, and for three years prevents Israel from trading with or traveling to other nations. In all that time, Israel does not repent of her evil ways.

God raises up Assyria to judge Israel—The kingdom of Israel is judged by God for ignoring his warnings and continuing in their idolatry. In the end they abandon all of God’s commands and completely stop observing any of the things God had taught them through Moses. They worship and serve Baal and sell themselves to do evil. Therefore, God judges them by raising up the Assyrians to conquer them.

Only the tribe of Judah is spared—Although the northern kingdom completely abandons all faith in God, there are a few good kings in Judah who do not turn to idols. So at first, God spares the tribe of Judah and their capital city, Jerusalem, allowing only the northern kingdom to be taken captive. But eventually even God’s people in Jerusalem turn away from the Lord and are taken captive. In the end, all of Israel turns away from the Lord, and the Lord judges them.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 2 Kings 17:1–20 from the Scriptures or read story 67, "The Fall of Israel," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

You Reap What You Sow

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a bag full of recognizable seeds such as grass seed, feed corn, acorns, or sunflower seeds (Avoid odd seeds that the children would not know.)

First read today's story to the class. Then pass out the seeds. The seeds are just a prop to connect Galatians 6:7–8 to today's text.

Pass around a seed to each person. Ask them to identify it and tell what its purpose is—planting or eating. Then ask them if they would go home and plant their seeds. Then matter-of-factly tell them to use the seeds to grow corn, lettuce, tomatoes, and green peppers.

The group should object to the absurd idea that you could plant one seed and get some other plant. Play dumb and have them explain to you that whatever you reap you sow, and then read Galatians 6:7–8 to them. Relate this biblical truth to the story of Israel.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

I Warned You

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper shredder
- ✓ miscellaneous papers
- ✓ clear plastic trash bag

The object of this short sketch is simply to demonstrate that there are consequences to ignoring warnings. Use this as a transition into the text or a skit for after you have read the passage.

Two teachers or helpers are involved. Papers are scattered around the room. The skit can be done ad lib once the purpose is understood.

Teacher 1: Man this place is a mess. *(turning to the class)* Hey, I know. I just got a new paper shredder. What a great time to try it out. I'm so glad I told {name of Teacher 2} to get her important papers picked up. *(Teacher 1 starts shredding the papers and is excited about the shredded pieces.)* Hey, this stuff would make great litter for my new puppy. *(She starts putting the shredded paper into the plastic bag. Then she continues shredding.)*

Teacher 2: *(walks into the room, talking to herself)* I know I left them around here somewhere. Hey, {name of Teacher 1}, did you see my papers?

Teacher 1: No. What papers?

Teacher 2: Oh, I had some notes for the class and some important letters.

Teacher 1: *(looking at plastic bag with shreds and hiding it behind her back)*

Did you remember to pick up the papers that you had lying around before class?

Teacher 2: Well, that's what I came in to do. Wait a minute, did you start cleaning up again? What did you do with my papers? *(She looks through the few remaining papers and can't find the ones she's looking for.)* What is behind your back?

Teacher 1: Huh? Well, uh, I told you I was going to clean up. I warned you. You can't say I didn't warn you. Well, look at the bright side, at least I didn't put the shreds in my puppy's cage yet. *(Teacher 1 shows the plastic bag.)*

Teacher 2: Shreds? Puppy? What have you done to my im-por-tant pa-pers? *(Teacher 2 takes the bag and sadly starts walking out of the room.)*

Teacher 1: Where are you going?

Teacher 2: *(sadly)* To get some clear tape. *(Crying, she exits.)*

Ask the class the following questions:

- Did you ever ignore someone's warning and as a result suffer bad consequences?
(Perhaps someone left their shoes outside overnight and rain got them wet or they didn't put papers away and something spilled on them.)
- Why do people give us warnings?
(Warnings are designed to help us change bad or harmful behavior.)
- What kind of warnings did God give Israel?
(God warned Israel not to marry foreigners or follow after other gods.)

Continue to point out to the children how Israel blatantly disobeyed the warnings of God and finally was judged by God.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 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.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Find the Sin

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two calves cut out from gold-colored gift wrap or paper purchased at a craft store (Find a simple image of a calf on the Internet.)
- ✓ tape

Prior to class, tape the golden calves up high on the walls.

After reading the story, ask the children, "Why did God allow Israel to be defeated and taken captive?" (Tell them the clue to the answer is hidden somewhere in the classroom.)

They should find the calves and give the answer that God allowed Israel to be captured because they worshiped false gods instead of the true God. Finish by reading 2 Kings 17:7–17.

