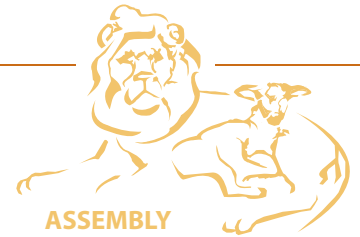


THE FALL OF ISRAEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: II KINGS 17:6-15



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

IDOLS UNDER EVERY TREE

Supplies:

- draw several bulls with horns as idols and photocopy 100 of them
- several plants or artificial trees

Prior to class tape the images up everywhere in your classroom.

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

Read to them 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 worshipping. Israel had stopped worshipping the Lord and turned away from the Lord.

Ask the class if they know what God did about it. Then 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 Ahijah's shirt torn in 12 pieces. The ten tribes given to Jeroboam were now destroyed. All that is left is Jerusalem and the tribe of Judah that God gave to Solomon's son.

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WARNING AFTER WARNING

Supplies:

- table
- yellow caution tape
- two mouse traps
- long wooden fireplace matches, with match heads cut off, to set off the traps (glue a paper mouse to the end of the sticks)

Set and place the traps on a table. Place four chairs all around the table and tie the caution tape around the chairs. When the class comes in let them look around the set up telling them not to 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 would get their 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 the scripture for today. Repeat 2 Kings 17:13-14. "The Lord warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer... 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 caught.)
- 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.)



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PUPPET AND A HOT PAN

Supplies:

- a puppet
- a colored egg (use spray paint and glitter to make it look like gold),
- a bowl
- a disposable drop cloth

Place the egg in bowl.

Puppet: (He sees the egg.) Wow, what is that?

Teacher: That is an egg with glitter on it I made for this class. It is not cooked so don't touch it because it could break."

Puppet: It looks so shiny and sparkly I wonder what it feels like?

Teacher: Class, you keep an eye on puppet for me and if he gets too close to that egg I want you to warn him. I have to take care of some papers over here.

Puppet: (Moving closer to the egg.) Boy that egg sure looks like I should touch it.

(Have the puppet say several lines like the one above to evoke warnings from the class. Each time when the teacher hears the children the teacher comes back to warn the puppet.)

Puppet: Oh, I don't believe that egg is raw. Everybody knows you only decorate hard-boiled eggs. And hard-boiled eggs are hard to break. I'll just show all of you. (Looking to the class puppet rushes over and picks up the egg.) See, nothing is breaking. I told you this egg is not raw.

Teacher: (Shouting loudly.) Puppet!

Puppet: (Noise startles puppet and he drops the egg which goes splat on the floor.)

Teacher: Puppet, you're just like the ancient nation of Israel. Let me read to you from 2 Kings 17:10-15. (Read the verses.)

Talk to the class about how important it is to follow God's commands and warnings.

- Do you know a command about obeying your parents and a blessing and warning that goes with it? (Read Ephesians 6:2-3.)



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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.

In Luke 11:47, Jesus told the experts of the law that their forefathers killed and persecuted the prophets. Jesus came as the greatest prophet. Like the prophets who came to Israel to warn them against their idolatry, these teachers of the law did not listen to Jesus but opposed Him.

Instead of listening to the prophets, Israel served and worshipped other gods as did Judah in the southern kingdom. God in His mercy did not destroy them completely but sent His only Son to be a prophet to bring the Word of God, a priest to offer Himself as an acceptable sacrifice, and a King to rule in righteousness.

