

THE FALL OF ISRAEL
SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: II KINGS 17:6-15



The STORY

Read 2 Kings 17:6-15 from the ESV Bible.

***Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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

- Who is God talking about? (God is talking about the 10 tribes of Israel that make up the northern kingdom.)
- What bad thing is happening in Israel? (Israel has not listened to God's prophets and is worshipping false gods.)
- What did God do to Israel for not following His warnings and worshipping false gods? (God had the king of Assyria capture their city and carry the Israelites away.)

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CRAFT QUESTIONS

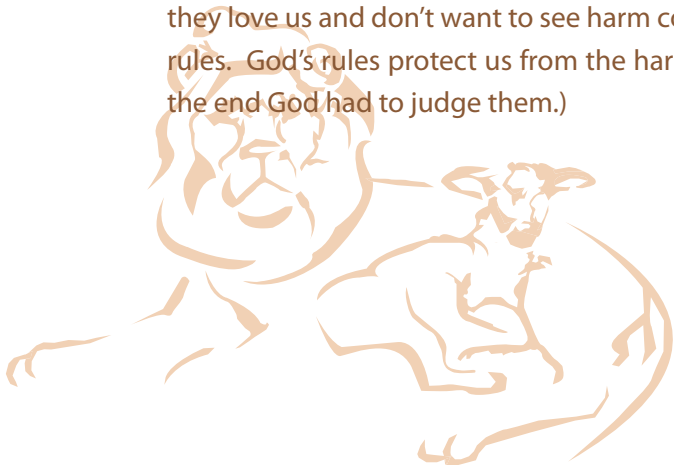
Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: three Israelites walking in chains with broken buildings in the background but idols left standing. Engage the children by asking:

- 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? (God warned Israel but they did not listen. They began to worship false gods instead of the Lord.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack engage the children 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 a warning doesn't just have to come 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 our lives. God's rules are not made up just to make up rules. God's rules protect us from the harm that sin brings to our lives. Israel didn't follow God and in the end God had to judge them.)



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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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

