

Grades 1-3 Lesson Template

Where	Who and What	What you Need
Classroom	Teacher takes attendance Give students a sticker	Paper on table, check off who is here, put onto the clipboard
	Option 1: Darker and darker	Water bottle Food dye
Large Group	Large Group Time: Leader is Bryan. He will get you when he is ready.	
Classroom:	Read group discussion questions p. 124	Bibles
	Remove a king: p. 125	Whiteboard Marker
	A Great Promise	Worksheet



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “What’s the longest trip you have taken? How did you pass the time?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What Doesn’t Belong?” activity page.

| **SAY** “Today, we will see how the people of Judah were taken to a new country, called Babylon. They didn’t belong there, but because of their sin, they were taken captive.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: DARKER AND DARKER



Place a clear glass of water on a table and invite the kids to gather around it. Invite one kid to select a color of food color to be added to the clear water. Then ask another kid to add a different color. Repeat this process until the water is no longer colorful, but dark. Prompt the kids to consider anything that might reverse the color of the water.

| **SAY** “Our glass of water started out clear, but the more color we added, the murkier the water became. This reminds me of how sinful choices lead to consequences. The more we choose to disobey God and go our own way, the darker our consequences become. In today’s story, we will discover that the people’s consequence for disobeying God was exile to Babylon.”

☐ OPTION 2: PAPER CHAIN RELAY



Form kids into two teams and give each team 20 strips of paper and a stapler. Provide each kid with a piece of construction paper. Explain that on your start, the first kid will form the first link of a paper chain by stapling a strip of paper into a ring. Then the first kid will pass the stapler to the next kid who will add another link to the chain. Kids on each team will continue to assemble their paper strips into a paper chain using the stapler. The first team to assemble their paper chain wins. As an added challenge, kids could be required to write a word of the story point on their strip of paper before creating the chain.

| **SAY** “Chains remind me of someone being taken as a prisoner. Chains can hold a person captive. Today, we will learn how the people of Judah were taken captive by the nation of Babylon. **THE PEOPLE’S CONSEQUENCE FOR DISOBEYING GOD WAS EXILE TO BABYLON.**”





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 2 Chronicles 36. Explain that the book of 2 Chronicles mainly focuses on the kings of Judah from the time of Solomon until the people of Judah were taken into exile by Babylon.

Consider pointing out the location of Babylon (E11) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY 🌟 God is so patient and kind. He kept warning His people, over and over again, about their sin and what would happen if they did not repent. But the people ignored God's words through the prophets.

Today, God has given us His Word, the Bible, so we can know Him and recognize our need for a Savior. Like Judah, we continue to sin and cannot save ourselves. However, we don't have to ignore God's words like Judah did. When we read the Bible or hear the gospel, we can trust in Jesus and be saved from our sin. Jesus took the punishment we deserve when He died on the cross. Anyone who trusts in Him will be forgiven of sin and receive eternal life. 🌟

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🌟 Does God give people unlimited chances to repent and follow Jesus? Why not? 🌟

Remind kids that the people of Judah were given many chances to turn away from sin, but God eventually brought judgment on them. Explain that the Bible tells us that we will all eventually die. If people die without trusting in Jesus as Savior and Lord, it will be too late for them to repent. Encourage kids with the mission of sharing the gospel with a lost world.

SAY 🌟 Why does sin deserve to be punished? 🌟

Prompt kids to remember that God is holy, good, and loving. God is right to punish sin because sin is wrong and goes against Him and His ways. Tell kids that God's standard is perfection, but because no one is perfect, we all deserve punishment for our sin. Share how only Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life.

SAY 🌟 Did God ever stop loving His people? Why not? 🌟

Tell kids that God never stopped loving His people. Even though many of the people were taken to Babylon, God took care of them in a foreign land. God showed His faithful love by telling them that they would be free from captivity after 70 years. Years later, God would send Jesus, who came from the family of Judah, to die on the cross for our sins so that everyone who trusts in Him will be saved.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





LIVE

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: KNOCK IT DOWN

Place a line of 10–15 cups on two tables. On top of each cup, place a large marshmallow. Form kids into two teams and assign a table of cups to each team. Provide each kid with a party blower. Line up each team at an end of the room opposite their table. On your start, send the first kid from each team to knock off the marshmallow on the first cup by using their party blower. After the first kid returns to his team, the next kid will run to the second cup and knock off the marshmallow using her party blower. Repeat, until one team is the first to knock off every marshmallow. Play again, as time allows. Consider adding more cups and marshmallows for an added challenge.

SAY “Today, we learned how King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon knocked down the walls of Jerusalem and destroyed the temple. The destruction of Jerusalem gives us a picture of what sin does: it leaves us broken and without hope. But God loves us so much that He didn’t leave us in our brokenness. He sent Jesus to restore or rebuild what sin destroys. Through Jesus we can be made right with God and have an everlasting hope.”

☐ OPTION 2: REMOVE THE KING



On a dry erase board, draw two stick figures with a head, two eyes, a nose, a mouth, two arms, two legs, and a crown. Form kids into two teams. Explain that you will ask review questions from the Bible story and the first team to raise their hand will get to answer. If they get the question right, erase one part of their “king” such as an eye or a leg. If they get it wrong, nothing is erased. The first team to erase their king entirely wins. Example questions may include:

- Who was the last good king of Judah? (Josiah)
- Who was the last king of Judah? (Zedekiah)
- Who destroyed Jerusalem and took the people captive? (Nebuchadnezzar)

SAY “God removed the last four kings of Judah and allowed Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to destroy Jerusalem. **THE PEOPLE’S CONSEQUENCE FOR DISOBEYING GOD WAS EXILE TO BABYLON.** Our sin has consequences too, but when we trust in Jesus, we are forgiven and made right with God. Christians want to be like Jesus and obey God.”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

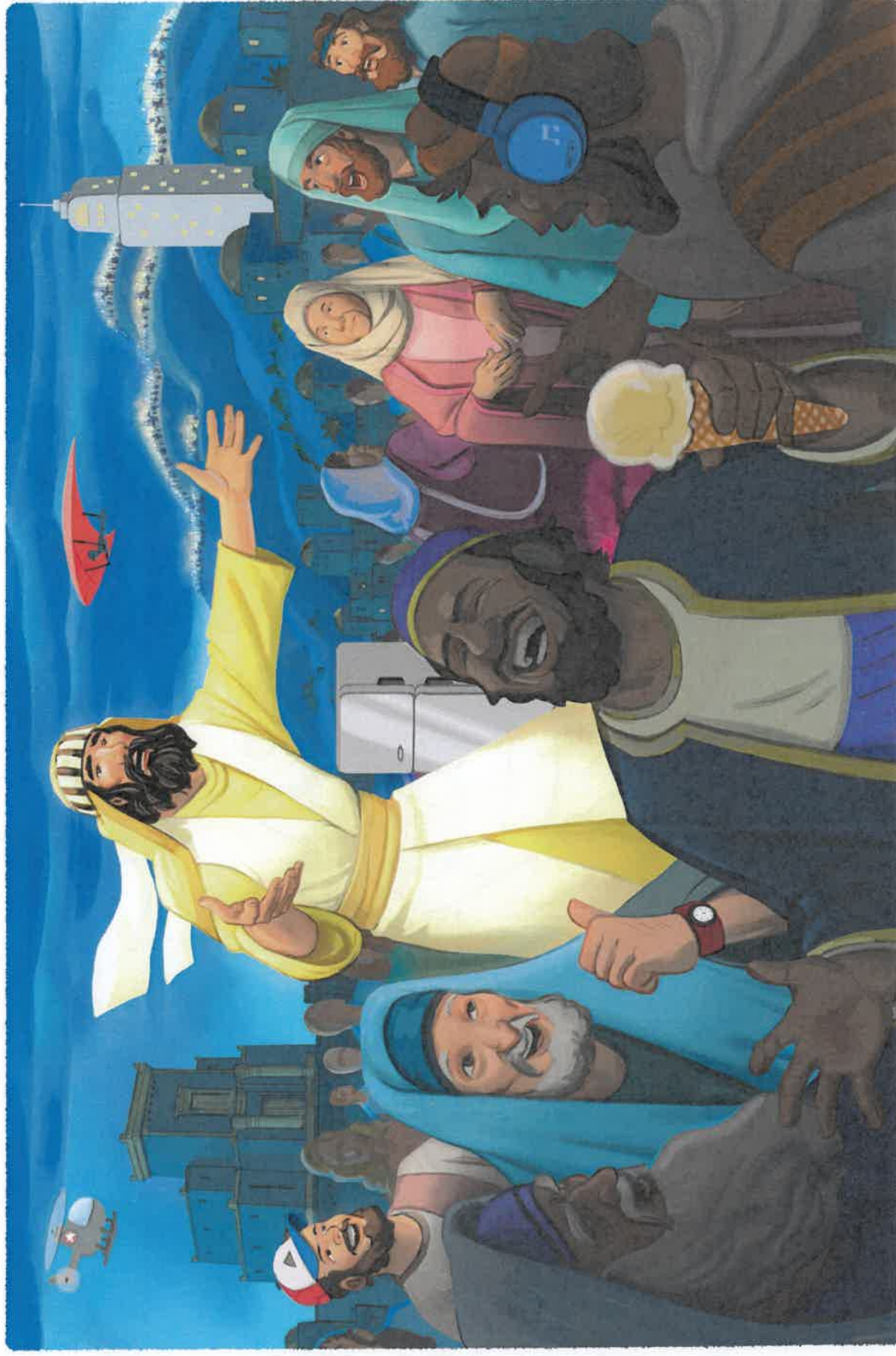
Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.

What Doesn't Belong?

INSTRUCTIONS: The people of Judah sinned and were taken from their home to Babylon. Circle the eight objects that don't belong in the picture.



NAME:



Judah Was Taken Captive

2 Chronicles 36

STORY POINT:

The people's consequence for disobeying God was exile to Babylon.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

The people of Judah continued to sin and were destroyed by Babylon. Even though God was patient, all sin deserves judgment. God's patience is meant to lead us to repentance. Those who repent and trust in Jesus will escape God's judgment.

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalms 145:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.



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