



Judgment of Edom
obadiah

MEMORY VERSE

Obadiah 1:10

“For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Blank white 8 1/2” x 11” paper, 1”x 6” black or silver strips of construction paper, scissors, markers and glue stick or a stapler.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Got Caught

The object of this game is to follow directions and not to get caught by the teacher. Give the children a number between 1-10. It is okay to double up on numbers. Have the children stand up against the wall in your classroom (facing the wall). The teacher should stand on the other end of the room facing that wall. The teacher will then call out 1 or 2 numbers. Those children will then turn around and hop three times towards the teacher. The only catch is that they must do their hopping before the teacher turns around and catches them. If the teacher catches them before they are done then they must start over.

Give everyone a chance to play. The first person to make it to the teacher wins. It might be that no one makes it to the end because they keep getting caught. *Teacher note: You may want no one to win to further illustrate that no one can get away with sin without being caught!*

The nation of Edom thought they were getting away with their sin, but the Lord caught them. The Lord sees everything! He can look into our hearts.

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever heard the expression, “What goes around comes around”? As you grow older, you discover that this saying is true; it actually expresses a truth found in God’s Word. “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

The people of the land of Edom were full of pride and self-confidence. In their arrogance, they turned against God’s people in Judah. God does not handle lightly those who set themselves against His people. **God rights the wrongs against His people.** Obadiah predicted that God would destroy Edom as punishment for helping others invade Judah.

OBADIAH 1:1-9

The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom (We have heard a report from the LORD, And a messenger has been sent among the nations, saying, "Arise, and let us rise up against her for battle"):

"Behold, I will make you small among the nations;
You shall be greatly despised.

The pride of your heart has deceived you, You who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high; You who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?'

Though you ascend as high as the eagle, And though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," says the LORD.

"If thieves had come to you, If robbers by night; Oh, how you will be cut off!; Would they not have stolen till they had enough? If grape-gatherers had come to you, Would they not have left some gleanings?

"Oh, how Esau shall be searched out! How his hidden treasures shall be sought after!

All the men in your confederacy Shall force you to the border; The men at peace with you Shall deceive you and prevail against you. Those who eat your bread shall lay a trap for you. No one is aware of it.

"Will I not in that day," says the LORD, "Even destroy the wise men from Edom, And understanding from the mountains of Esau?

Then your mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, To the end that everyone from the mountains of Esau May be cut off by slaughter.

Edom had rejoiced over the misfortunes of both Israel and Judah, and yet they were close relatives. The Edomites were descendants of Esau and the Israelites were descendants of Jacob, two brothers (Genesis 25:19-26). The two brothers never enjoyed much peace between them; in fact, the struggle started in their mother's womb. Through time, the Edomites, the descendants of Esau, were rarely at peace with the Israelites, descendants of Jacob.

Edom was the southern neighbor of Judah, sharing a common boundary. Yet, despite their common heritage, Edom liked nothing about Judah. Edom was glad to see Judah in trouble. Their hatred made them want the nation destroyed. Because of this, God would judge them.

The Edomites were proud of their self-sufficiency, finding security in a city called Petra. This city was considered impregnable (too strong to be captured by force) because it was cut into a solid rock cliff and set in a canyon that could be entered only through a narrow gap. The Edomites boasted they could defend Petra with only twenty men; for, from their fortress on high they could simply toss boulders on anyone foolish enough to venture up the narrow path to their city. However, the boastful city was to be overcome by God's judgment. (Today, the long abandoned ruins of the rock city of Petra are considered one of the marvels of the ancient world and draw many tourists.)

The Bible warns us in Proverbs 16:18 that pride is the surest way to self-destruction: "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." Just as Petra and Edom fell, so will those of us who are proud. A humble person is more secure than a proud person because humility gives one a more accurate perspective of oneself and the world in relation to God. In humility, we see our need for God; pride will give us a warped view of ourselves. In humility, God will lift us up; in pride, we will be brought down.

What Edom perceived as strengths would be their downfall. God reveals five things in verses 3-9 that the people of Edom put their confidence in.

- 1) Safety in their city (God would send them plummeting from the heights).
- 2) Pride in their self-sufficiency (God would humble them).
- 3) Wealth (thieves would steal all they had).
- 4) Allies (God would cause them to turn against Edom).
- 5) Wisdom (they would be confused).

Though Edom felt secure, they would have no place to hide when God would judge their pride.

Prophetic Shoes

Ask everyone in the class (including teachers and aides) to sit in a large circle. Everyone should take his or her shoes off. This game will help review the names of the prophets we have been studying about in recent weeks. When you say “go,” ask the children to raise their hands if they can think of a name of a Bible prophet.

With every correct answer, everyone should trade their shoes to their left. Keep playing until the children run out of names. If they are having trouble thinking of names you may give them hints. Some names would be Elijah, Elisha, Ezekiel, Daniel, Jeremiah, Micah, Malachi, Nahum, Joel, Obadiah, Amos, Isaiah, etc... When no one can think of any more, have the children try to put on the shoes that are in front of them. This should be rather challenging for some.

The nation of Edom hated the nation of Israel, even though they descended from brothers. They took advantage of them, rejoiced in their hurt, and refused to turn to God themselves. Now, they were ripe for judgment. Have you ever heard the expression, “Do not judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes”? We need to show empathy—an ability to relate to the suffering others experience. May we remember to show God’s love to those around us, Christian and non-Christian. Only God can give us the strength to love even our enemies; when we do so, we will prove we are His children.

OBADIAH 1:10-14

"For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever.

In the day that you stood on the other side; In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When foreigners entered his gates And cast lots for Jerusalem; Even you were as one of them.

But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother
In the day of his captivity; Nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah
In the day of their destruction; Nor should you have spoken proudly
In the day of distress.

You should not have entered the gate of My people
In the day of their calamity. Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction
In the day of their calamity, Nor laid hands on their substance
In the day of their calamity.

You should not have stood at the crossroads
To cut off those among them who escaped; Nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained
In the day of distress.

God gives the reasons for His judgments against Edom. They took pleasure in the “day of calamity” of God’s people. They took advantage of Judah’s misfortune by coming into their land after another nation attacked them and looting. They betrayed their brothers in times of crisis and also aided their enemies (Psalm 137:7, Amos 1:11-12).

Edom was glad to see Judah in trouble. Whenever bad times struck, they waited and watched, hoping for their destruction. God’s judgment on Edom would be a strong reminder that He alone is the judge. God would make an example of them for the entire world to see.

May we never take pleasure in the misfortune of others, even if we feel they deserve it. Instead, let us be ready to be God’s instruments to help those in time of need—even if they have been against us! In so doing, the love we show will prove that we are indeed God’s children. In John 13:35 we read, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

OBADIAH 1:15-16

"For the day of the LORD upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head.

For as you drank on my holy mountain, So shall all the nations drink continually; Yes, they shall drink, and swallow, And they shall be as though they had never been.

A time will come when God will judge all the Gentile nations. No one will escape God's judgment for the evil way they treat His people. God said their acts would boomerang upon their heads. Those nations, who like Edom, have taken pleasure in Israel's troubles will suffer the same fate.

The real evidence of our faith is the way we act and treat others. May we be found faithful to reach out to everyone in need, even our enemies! God is the One and only One to bring judgment. **God rights the wrongs against His people.**

OBADIAH 1:17-21

"But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, And there shall be holiness; The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau," For the LORD has spoken.

The South shall possess the mountains of Esau, And the Lowland shall possess Philistia. They shall possess the fields of Ephraim And the fields of Samaria. Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

And the captives of this host of the children of Israel
Shall possess the land of the Canaanites As far as
Zarephath. The captives of Jerusalem who are in
Sepharad Shall possess the cities of the South.

Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion To judge the
mountains of Esau, And the kingdom shall be the
Lord's.

Obadiah assures Edom that Israel will once again occupy the land. By 185 BC, the Edomites were over-thrown by Judas Maccabeus. The words of Obadiah's prophecy must have seemed ridiculous to Edom; yet God's Word is true. God is faithful to take vengeance on those who mistreat His people. Today, Edom has vanished and Judah still exists.

Edom reaped what they had sown. In their pride and self-sufficiency, they did not care for God's people, even though they were closely related. Pride, indeed, brought destruction. **God rights the wrongs against His people.**

May we not be guilty of pride and self-sufficiency, which will alienate us from God and lead to insensitivity to those around us. May a good sense of caution feel our hearts when we see others, even our enemies, suffer. Judgment is not ours to meet out. May the mercy and compassion we show prove we are children of our Father.

Handcuffed by Sin

For this craft, you will need blank white 8 1/2" x 11" paper, 1" x 6" black or silver strips of construction paper, scissors, markers, and glue stick, or a stapler.

Fold the paper in half to make a 4 1/2" x 5 1/2" rectangle. Have the children place their left hand onto the paper. The folded edge should be on the right side. The edge of the hand should be placed on the fold of the paper. Using a pencil, trace the outline of the hand. After tracing, cut along the lines that make the hand. Cut everywhere except the fold of the little finger and wrist, this will hold the hands together. This should make two hands that are attached at the palm and along the small finger.

Where the fold connects the two hands, cut a 1" slit near the bottom (by the wrist area). Find two 1" x 6" strips of black or silver construction paper. Pass them through the slit. Wrap one around one hand and the other around the other hand. Glue or staple the loops to make handcuffs. Write the memory verse or theme on the hands as a reminder to the children.

Like being handcuffed, sin can bind us. The people from Edom were bound in their sins, and they brought upon themselves God's judgment. In Jesus, we find forgiveness and freedom from sin.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for how the Lord defends His people. Pray we will walk in humility and sensitivity to those around us who may be suffering. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.