

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS DESTROYED

2 KINGS 17



CHRIST CONNECTION: When we do not listen to God, we can pray and ask God to forgive us. Jesus took our punishment so we can be with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Follow the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 13:4

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- King Hoshea was the leader of Israel, but he did not listen to or follow God.
- One day, a strong army took over Israel, and God's people had to leave their homes.
- God punished Israel and let their enemies take them away.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: King Hoshea was the leader of Israel, but he did not listen to or follow God. Hoshea and the people in Israel did bad things. One day, a sad thing happened—a big, strong army from Assyria took over Israel. They put King Hoshea in prison and made all the people leave their homes. The people had to walk far away to Assyria. God let this happen because the people forgot about Him and did wrong things. Even though God warned them, they did not stop. So, God punished Israel and let their enemies take them away. Now, only the tribe of Judah was left.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 2 Kings 17. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing the following lyrics to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

“Follow the LORD your God,
LORD your God, LORD your God.
Follow the LORD your God,
He loves and cares for you.”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase tells us to follow whom? Yes, God! We can love and obey God by following His ways. ”

2 WEAR THE CROWN

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows in a circle on the floor. Put a toy crown on the floor in the middle of the circle. Help the babies reach for the crown, pick up the crown, and put it on their heads. Read the gospel gems as the babies play.

SAY “ Did King Hosea obey God? No! King Hoshea was the leader of Israel, but he did not listen to or follow God. When we do not listen to God, we can pray and ask God to forgive us. God loves us and wants us to follow Him. ”

3 ROLL THE BALL

Gather a soft playground ball. Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows in a circle on the floor. Roll the ball to each baby as you say one word of the key passage phrase with each roll. Point up each time you say, “God.” Repeat as time allows.

SAY “ We can follow God by listening to Him. The people in our Bible story did not listen to God. When we do not listen to God, we can pray and ask God to forgive us. Jesus took our punishment so we can be with God forever. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 17. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card, and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 LISTEN AND FORGET

Gather the toddlers in a circle on the floor. Begin patting, clapping, and tapping a rhythm with your hands. Begin with an easy pattern like pat, pat, clap. Then add more movements until the toddlers forget the pattern. Challenge the toddlers to remember all the movements they can until they all forget. Review Bible story.

SAY “ Did the people remember God or forget about Him? That’s right—the people forgot about God. God punished Israel because the people forgot about Him and did wrong things. ”

3 REMEMBER AND FIND THE COLOR

Gather several pieces of colorful paper. Hold up one color for the toddlers to see; then hide it. Challenge the toddlers to remember what color you held up and where to find it in the room. Play several rounds, adding other colors and locations to challenge the toddlers.

SAY “ Did King Hoshea and the people of Israel remember God? No! They forgot about Him and disobeyed Him. So, God allowed a strong army to take them away. They had to leave their homes. ”

4 TRAVEL DOWN THE ROAD

Use painter’s tape to create a “road” on the floor of the room. Encourage the toddlers to walk from one end of the road to the other in various ways. Ways to walk include hopping, sidestepping, heel-to-toe, and even crawling. Occasionally, guide the toddlers to stop, and gauge which toddlers obey. Retell the story as the toddlers travel.

SAY “ The people had to walk far away to Assyria. God let this happen because the people forgot about Him and did wrong things. Even though God warned them, did the people stop doing wrong things? No, they did not stop! God punished the people because they did not obey God. Sometimes, we disobey God too. When we ask God to forgive us, He does! ”

5 MAKE A CROWN

Cut a strip of paper for each toddler that fits around their heads, like a crown. Encourage the toddlers to use crayons or jewel-shape stickers to decorate their crowns. Tape the crowns together so the toddlers can wear them. Review the Bible story as the toddlers decorate.

SAY “ Did King Hosea obey God? No! Even though God warned them, Israel did not stop doing wrong things. So, God punished Israel and let their enemies take them away. God allowed Assyria to come and put King Hosea in prison. They made all the people leave their homes. ”

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CHRIST CONNECTION: When we do not listen to God, we can pray and ask God to forgive us. Jesus took our punishment so we can be with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Follow the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 13:4

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: WALK TO ASSYRIA

Print out a map that shows Assyria and Israel, and show how far away the Israelites had to walk. Tape a piece of paper that says Israel at a starting spot on one side of the room, and tape a piece of paper that says Assyria in another spot on the opposite side of the room. Direct toddlers to walk around the room while following your moves. As you walk, take short strides, then take long strides, then tiptoe, then penguin walk, and so forth. Allow toddlers to follow your moves. Retell the Bible story as they listen and obey.

SAY “ Did the Israelites obey God? No! So, God allowed Assyria to take God’s people away. The Israelites had to leave their home and move to Assyria because they did not obey God. ”

2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing the following lyrics to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”: “Follow the LORD your God, LORD your God, LORD your God. / Follow the LORD your God. / He loves and cares for you.”

SAY “ When we obey God, we follow Him and learn how to walk in His ways. ”

3 PASS THE SQUEEZE

Instruct the toddlers to sit in a tight circle and hold hands. Start by squeezing the hand of the toddler nearest you, then allow that toddler to pass the squeeze to the friend next to them. Encourage the toddlers to quietly and gently pass the squeeze around the circle. Change it up by instructing toddlers to reverse the squeeze when they feel a double squeeze. Retell the story, focusing on how the people did not listen and obey God’s warning.

SAY “ When God warned the people to stop doing wrong things, did they obey? No, they did not. When we do not listen to God and obey Him, we can pray and ask God to forgive us because of Jesus. Jesus took our punishment so we can be with God forever. ”

4 FOLLOW THE DOTS

Write We can follow and obey God, and place dots or dot stickers in a heart shape on each toddler’s paper. Allow toddlers to start on any dot and follow the dots around the paper, connecting each dot. Call attention to the shape that appears on their papers. Allow toddlers to decorate their papers. Review the Bible story as the toddlers connect the dots.

SAY “ Did King Hoshea follow God? No! Hosea and the people of Israel did bad things and they did not follow God. Did God stop loving His people? No! God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sins so we can be with Him forever. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.