

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS DESTROYED

2 KINGS 17



CHRIST CONNECTION: When the people in Israel did not listen to God, God let them be taken away. We sometimes do not listen to God too, but Jesus took our punishment so we can be with God forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do Christians continue to sin? Because we still have hearts that want to sin.

KEY PASSAGE: You must follow the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 13:4

STORY POINT: God judged Israel's sin.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Hoshea was an evil king in the long line of the evil kings of Israel. In Hoshea's ninth year as king, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, put Hoshea in prison, and moved all the Israelites to Assyria. The kingdom of Israel was officially destroyed.

Why was Israel destroyed? Although God had been patient, the Israelites witnessed their kingdom crumble because of their unrelenting sin. God freed Israel from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh and brought them out of the land of Egypt. The Lord loved the people of Israel, performed many miracles, and commanded them to worship Him alone. The people of Israel were meant to be set apart as the Lord's people, but they worshiped false gods and lived like the nations around them.

Through the prophets, God repeatedly warned the Israelites to repent and turn back to the one true God, but the people did not listen. The Lord warned the people, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep my commands and statutes according to the whole law I commanded your ancestors" (2 Kings 17:13). The Israelites, however, did not listen. Instead, they rejected God and His covenant and followed worthless idols.

As the people ignored God's warnings, He became angry. God judged Israel's sin and allowed Assyria to destroy the Northern Kingdom. He rejected them and cast them out of His presence. The king of Assyria moved the people of Israel out of their land and brought foreigners to live in Israel's land and cities.

The kingdom of Israel was destroyed because of the Israelites' sin. God's gracious patience lasted for years, but the people failed to repent and seek the Lord wholeheartedly. Like Israel, we sin, and all sin deserves death. Those who fail to repent and trust in Christ will be separated from God forever. Yet, the unfailing love of the Lord has provided the way for people to be forgiven and live with God forever. Those who trust in Christ will escape God's punishment of sin. They will not only find forgiveness but also receive the Holy Spirit who empowers them to live for God.

As you prepare for this week's session, pray for boys and girls to see their need for Jesus. Pray also that you would be able to clearly communicate the gift of the Savior, thanking God for sending Jesus to restore what we have broken through our sin and disobedience. Rejoice together in the fact that Jesus died and rose again so that we might be saved from certain destruction!



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30-40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60-65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.

WELCOME



Guess the object

- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- large paper bag
- shoe

LIVE



Decorate a house

- assorted stickers
- “Key Passage Phrase Labels” printable, 1 copy

Missions activity

- “George and Joan Braswell Photo” printable

Snack and transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- “Circle Good Choices” activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families

LEARN



Tell the Bible story

- “The Northern Kingdom Was Destroyed” video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Make footprints in the sand

- large plastic container
- play sand
- spray bottle of water
- people and animal figures

Match shoes

- several pairs of shoes, variety of sizes and styles
- laundry basket

BONUS



Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Drive vehicles on maps

- toy vehicles
- maps

Draw on sandpaper

- sandpaper



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

GUESS THE OBJECT

Post the Big Picture Question Poster near the entrance to the classroom. Tape the Bible Story Picture Poster to the outside of a large paper bag. Place a shoe in the bag. Greet preschoolers as they come to the classroom and point out the Big Picture Question Poster. Encourage children to feel what is inside the bag and guess what it is. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you talk about what is inside.

SAY “ Welcome to church today. I am so glad you are here. There is something in this bag that reminds me of our story. Feel what is inside. Can you guess what it is? It is a shoe. When the people of Israel did not listen to God, God let them be taken away. Our big picture question asks, **Why do Christians continue to sin? Because we still have hearts that want to sin.** The people of Israel and their king did bad things. Because they did not listen to God, an army took over Israel and made them walk far away to Assyria. **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL'S SIN.** ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 CHOOSE THUMBS UP OR DOWN

Demonstrate for preschoolers how to give a “thumbs up” for a good choice and a “thumbs down” for a wrong choice. List several scenarios, giving children the opportunity to show you a “thumbs up” or “thumbs down.” Examples could include helping mom fold clean towels, taking a toy from a friend without asking first, cleaning up toys the first time someone asks you to, or helping feed a pet.

SAY You did a great job deciding if some of the choices we make each day were right or wrong. King Hoshea and the people of Israel made some wrong choices. This is called sin. The people forgot about God and did not listen to Him. **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL'S SIN.**

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 17. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS DESTROYED

SAY King Hoshea was the leader of Israel. The problem was Hoshea did not follow God. Hoshea and the people in Israel did bad things. Because they did not listen to God, something very sad 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.

Christ Connection: When the people in Israel did not listen to God, God let them be taken away. We sometimes do not listen to God too, but Jesus died to take our punishment so we can be with God forever.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Invite preschoolers to show you how they think the people of Israel felt at different parts of the Bible story. End by asking how they feel about Jesus taking our punishment so that we can be with God forever.

SAY *How do you think the people feel when the army from Assyria came? How do you think they felt when they had to leave their homes and walk far away? When the people in Israel did not listen to God, God let them be taken away. We sometimes do not listen to God too, but Jesus took our punishment so we can be with God forever. How does this make you feel? //*

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”:

You must follow the LORD your God.
You must follow the LORD your God.
You must follow the LORD your God.
Deuteronomy 13:4

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Deuteronomy 13:4. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage preschoolers to say the key passage phrase with you several times. Each time you say the phrase, leave out a word, leading children to say the missing word.

SAY *Our key passage phrase reminds us that we must follow the Lord. The people of Israel did not follow Him, so God punished them and let their enemies take them away. **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL'S SIN.** //*

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God that Jesus took our punishment so we can be with Him forever.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 GO FOR A WALK

Invite preschoolers to take a walk with you. Encourage children to walk with their shoulders slumped and a frown on their face like the Israelite people might have done. Retell the story as you go on your journey. Follow your church's safety procedures for leaving the classroom. If you are unable to leave the classroom, plan a route within the room, circling around furniture and toys.

SAY King Hoshea and the people of Israel did bad things. Because they did not listen to God, something very sad happened. A big, strong army from Assyria took over Israel 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. When the people in Israel did not listen to God, **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL'S SIN**. God let them be taken away. We sometimes do not listen to God too, but Jesus took our punishment so we can be with God forever.

2 MAKE FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

Place a layer of sand in a large, plastic container. Mist the sand with a spray bottle of water so it will be easier to see footprints. Arrange people and animal figures near the container. Invite preschoolers to make footprints in the sand with the people and animal figures. Compare the sizes and shapes of the footprints.

SAY You made the people and animal figures walk in the sand. The people of Israel had to leave their homes and walk far away to Assyria. King Hoshea and the people in Israel did bad things. They did not listen to God. God let them be taken away because they forgot about Him and did wrong things. God punished Israel and let their enemies take them away. **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL'S SIN**.

3 MATCH SHOES

Place several pairs of shoes, all different sizes and styles, in a laundry basket. Invite preschoolers to match up the different pairs of shoes. Talk about who might wear the shoes based on the size and style. Take the left shoe in each pair and hide it somewhere in the classroom. Give the right shoe to a preschooler and encourage him to go and find its match. Encourage preschoolers to take turns hiding the shoes and finding their matches.

SAY There are many styles and sizes of shoes. We wear shoes to protect our feet when we walk places. The people of Israel had to walk far away to Assyria. They did not listen to God, and a big strong army from Assyria took over Israel and made the people leave their homes. God let this happen because the people forgot about Him and did wrong things. When the people of Israel did not listen to God, God let them be taken away. We sometimes do not listen to God too, but Jesus took our punishment so we can be with God forever.

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





LIVE

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 DECORATE A HOUSE

Before the session, cut triangle and square shapes out of construction paper. Encourage preschoolers to glue the triangle on top of the square to create the shape of a house. Print a “Key Passage Phrase Label” printable and invite children to decorate the house with markers, stickers, and a label.

SAY Our key passage phrase tells us to follow the Lord our God. The people of Israel did not follow God. Because of this, a big, strong army from Assyria took over Israel. The people had to leave their homes and walk far away to Assyria. God let this happen because the people forgot about Him and did wrong things.

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Print and display a copy of the “George and Joan Braswell Photo” printable. Pray, thanking God for the work of missionaries in Iran and around the world.

SAY Dr. George Braswell said God was preparing him from a young age to be a missionary in Iran. Dr. Braswell and his wife, Joan, spent several years as missionaries in Iran. Dr. Braswell became a professor. This job gave him several opportunities to tell people about Jesus in Iran.

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY When the people of Israel did not listen to God, God let them be taken away. We sometimes do not listen to God too, but Jesus took our punishment so we can be with God forever.

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 TAKE A WALK

Invite preschoolers to join you on a walk around the classroom. Weave your way around the tables, chairs, and other furniture in the room. End at the group-time area. Tell children that the Israelites had to leave their homes and walk far away to Assyria.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to 2 Kings 17. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS DESTROYED

- King Hoshea and the people of Israel did not follow God. They did wrong things.
- A strong army from Assyria took over Israel and took the people far away.
- God let this happen because the people forgot about Him and did not listen to His warnings.
- Only the people of Judah were left.
- Jesus died to take our punishment so we can be with God forever.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”:

You must follow the LORD your God.
You must follow the LORD your God.
You must follow the LORD your God.
Deuteronomy 13:4

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Deuteronomy 13:4. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the phrase together several times. Encourage preschoolers to turn and tell a friend the key passage phrase. Allow time for each child to have a turn if they would like.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God that He forgives us when we say we are sorry for not listening to Him. Thank Him for taking our punishment so that we can be with Him forever.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 BUILD HOMES



Arrange blocks from the classroom on a low table or on the floor. Invite preschoolers to build houses with the blocks. Children may want to work together to build one large home or a neighborhood of smaller homes.

SAY Homes come in many shapes and sizes. The people of Israel had to leave their homes. King Hoshea and the people of Israel did bad things. They did not listen to God. A big, strong army from Assyria took over Israel and made the people leave their homes. They had to walk far away to Assyria. God let this happen because the people forgot about Him and did wrong things. When the people of Israel did not listen to God, God let them be taken away. We sometimes do not listen to God too, but Jesus took our punishment so we can be with God forever. „

7 DRIVE VEHICLES ON MAPS

Place toy vehicles, maps, and tape on the floor. Demonstrate how to unfold the maps and tape them to the floor. Preschoolers may want to create one large map by taping several maps side by side. Look at the maps and talk about the places you can go. Encourage preschoolers to pretend to drive the vehicles across the maps.

SAY Maps help us know where to go. We can look at a map for directions when we go on a trip. The people of Israel went to Assyria. They did not go in a vehicle. They walked. King Hoshea and the people of Israel did not listen to God. A strong army from Assyria took over Israel and made the people leave their homes. God let this happen because the people forgot about Him and did wrong things. When the people in Israel did not listen to God, God let them be taken away. We sometimes do not listen to God too, but Jesus took our punishment so we can be with God forever. „

8 DRAW ON SANDPAPER

Place copy paper, sandpaper, and crayons on the table. Invite preschoolers to draw on the sandpaper. Point out how drawing on plain paper feels different than drawing on the sandpaper. Encourage younger preschoolers to draw lines and simple shapes. Older preschoolers may want to draw a house.

SAY Drawing on sandpaper is different from drawing on plain, white paper. The sandpaper reminds me of a rough, sandy, dusty road. The people of Israel had to leave their homes and walk far away to Assyria. The people forgot about God and did wrong things. Even though God warned them, they did not stop. So, God punished Israel and let their enemies take them away. **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL'S SIN.** „

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.