

## Unit 14, Session 3: Israel Taken Captive

Dear Parents:

God's people had a history of disobeying God. Sin separated them from God. But man was created to know and love God, and God was working out a plan to bring His children back to Himself. Like any good father, God knows that disobedience needs to be punished. "For the LORD disciplines the one he loves, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights" (Prov. 3:12).

After the tribes of Israel split into the Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdom, God sent prophets to both kingdoms to warn the people to turn from their sins and obey God. Over the course of 200 years, the prophets Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Amos, and Hosea spoke to Israel and warned them of the consequences of their idolatry. They called for Israel to repent and turn back to God. But Israel did not listen.

God had been very patient with the Israelites. He had helped them in times of trouble and delayed their punishment because He is gracious and compassionate. (See 2 Kings 13:23.) But God knew His people would not love Him with all their hearts.

Finally, God had had enough. Evil King Hoshea ruled over Israel, and God allowed Israel's enemies to send the people into exile. The king of Assyria attacked Israel and laid siege to Samaria. Assyria captured Samaria and forced the people to leave the city. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed and the people were scattered, just as God had said it would be. (See 1 Kings 14:15.)

Israel's exile was God's judgment on their sin but God was not finished working among His people. God was still working out His plan to keep His covenant promises. As you talk with your kids this week, point them to Jesus, the answer to God's promises. **When the Israelites disobeyed God again and again, God punished them by removing them from His presence. We disobey God, but Jesus took the punishment for our sin upon Himself. Jesus brings us into God's presence and keeps us there.–**

## Big Picture Question

Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

## Tell the Bible Story

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 17. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Israel Taken Captive.” **LEADER • Israel ignored God’s prophets and was captured.** The Israelites were supposed to be different from other nations. God had saved them from Egypt and told them how to be holy like He is holy. The Israelites were supposed to love and follow God. They weren’t supposed to worship idols. But that is exactly what the Northern Kingdom did.

The people made idols to worship, worshiped idols of all kinds, and followed the customs of the nations around them. God sent prophets to warn the people, but the people further refused to follow God.

This pattern happened over and over again. Like any good father, God knows that disobedience needs to be disciplined. [See *Prov. 3:12*.] Finally, the Northern Kingdom paid the price of their sin. God allowed them to be defeated by Assyria.

The Assyrians were known for being very mean. To keep the people they defeated from trying to fight again, they divided them up and scattered them, sending them to live in new places far away from their homes.

## Questions from Kids Video

Show the “Unit 14, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why parents give kids rules. Guide them to discuss how discipline can be for their good.

## Missions Moment

Stand in front of kids and hold your arms out to the sides. Invite kids to imagine they are in a boat. When you lean to one side, they should lean too. When you lean the other side, they should do the same. Lean from side to side as if on a boat rocking in the waves. Guide kids into “calm water” as you share about Bill Wallace.

**LEADER •** Bill Wallace was a missionary doctor who served in China many years ago. One day when the country was at war, it became too dangerous to keep patients at the hospital. Dr. Wallace and other staff members carefully carried the patients to a boat to get them to safety. Even when he was on the boat, the doctor kept right on treating the patients. Dr. Wallace was faithful to God. God wants us to be faithful to Him.

## Key Passage

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together 2 Peter 3:9.

**LEADER** • In today's Bible story, we heard how **Israel ignored God's prophets and was captured**. The Israelites had disobeyed God again and again, but God did not punish them right away. Over the course of 200 years after God's people split into two kingdoms, the prophets Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Amos, and Hosea spoke to Israel and warned them of the consequences of their idolatry.

God is patient, but He loves His people too much to leave them in their sin.

## Sing

Sing together "The Lord Does Not Delay" and "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

## Pray

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story. **LEADER** • Lord God, thank You for Your Word. We see in today's Bible story that You are patient. Like a good father, You discipline the disobedient. You love Your people too much to let them keep living in sin. Open our eyes and ears to receive Your instruction.

Thank You for Jesus, who always obeyed perfectly. Because of Him, You will never send Your people away. ose who love You have a home with You forever! You are so good. We love You. Amen.

## Apply

Option 1: Activity pages provided via email or at <http://firstofallon.com/ministries/kids/kids-life-home-resources>

Option 2: Up for the Challenge

Challenge kids to complete some simple tasks that will be harder because they can only use one hand. Ask for volunteers to try to open a water bottle, tie a shoe, or button a shirt using just one hand. Give time for them to discuss the difficulty of these activities. If your group is not too large, give everyone a chance to complete one of the tasks. **SAY** • As Christians, we might have to do some things that seem hard or even impossible, just like Dr. Wallace had to keep treating patients on a boat when they had to leave the hospital. We can trust in God and obey Him.

Distribute index cards and ask kids to write down or draw a picture of one thing they can do to be obedient to God this week, even if it seems hard. Encourage them to think of ways that they can tell someone else about Jesus. Ask them to take the card home as a reminder that God wants us to tell others about Him.

## Midweek Follow-up

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to 2 Kings 17. Remind kids that the last king of Israel was Hoshea. Remove the arrow indicating a reigning king. **SAY** • God allowed the Assyrians to take over Israel, and the Assyrians destroyed the city of Samaria. The people of Israel were taken to Assyria and scattered throughout the land. The Northern Kingdom was destroyed.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Kings 17:7,13-14. Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why did God allow the Assyrians to capture Israel? Did God give up on His people? *Help kids understand that Israel's exile was God's judgment on their sin, but God was not nished working among His people. God was still working out His plan to keep His covenant promises through the people of Judah.*

(Option: Choose a kid to read Deut. 29:24-28.)

2. How is God good for disciplining His people? *Guide kids to recognize that a good father does not let his children continue in disobedience. Discipline guides and trains a person in the right way to live. Point out that God's discipline is proof of His love for us. God knows the best way to live and wants us to have life in Him*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 3:12.)

3. How did God punish our sin? *Lead kids to discuss that the right punishment for sin is death. Instead of punishing us, God sent His Son. Jesus took the punishment we deserve. He died on the cross for our sin and rose again so we can have forgiveness and life with God forever.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Pet. 3:18.)

## Israel Taken Captive

*2 Kings 2:17*

**God had done so many good things for the Israelites.** He had rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and had taken care of them in a new land. He made a covenant with them and promised to be their God. **Even though God loved them like a father, the Israelites forgot about God.** They acted in the same way as the nations who did not know and love God. **They worshiped things that were not God, and they did exactly what God told them not to do.**

**So God sent prophets to warn the people to stop doing evil things.** Did Israel listen? No. **The prophets said bad things would happen if they did not obey God. Did Israel obey? No. In fact, they sinned even more! God finally had enough. He loved His people too much to let them continue in their sin and rebellion. So God punished the people of Israel by letting their enemies take over.** Hoshea (hoh SHEE uh) was the last king of Israel, the Northern Kingdom. King Hoshea did evil things like the kings before him.

At this time, the people of Assyria and the people of Israel did not get along. Assyria's army was bigger and stronger than Israel's army, so King Hoshea paid the king of Assyria to leave Israel alone. But Hoshea had to do whatever the king of Assyria told him to do. Instead of asking God to help His people, Hoshea secretly asked the king of Egypt to protect Israel from Assyria. Now that Hoshea had a deal with Egypt, he stopped giving money to the king of Assyria.

**One day, the king of Assyria and his army attacked Israel. King Hoshea was thrown into prison. The Assyrian army surrounded** the city of Samaria, **the capital of Israel.** Samaria had a strong wall around the city. For three years, the Assyrians attacked the city. They did not let anyone bring supplies into the city.

**Finally, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and forced the people to leave their homes.** He bound them together with ropes and hooks, and **he made them walk hundreds of miles to Assyria. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed.**

*Christ Connection: When the Israelites disobeyed God again and again, God punished them by removing them from His presence. We disobey God, but Jesus took the punishment for our sin upon Himself. Jesus brings us into God's presence and keeps us there.*