

LESSON 71

The Fall of Jerusalem

2 CHRONICLES 36:15-20



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD'S JUDGMENT COMES WHEN HIS PEOPLE DO NOT REPENT

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Three heavy books; 3-ft. length of strong tape

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 71)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 71

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Jerusalem Falls

SUPPLIES: large cardboard building blocks or cardboard boxes decorated to represent the wall of Jerusalem; a statue or something to serve as an idol; cardboard cut in the shape of knives and swords

No Remedy Puppet Skit

SUPPLIES: puppet; toy medical kit with “hypodermic needle,” “medicine bottle,” “bandage”

Cycles of Rebellion

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn about how the failure of Judah to follow the Lord finally led to the destruction of their capitol city, Jerusalem.

Bring to class three heavy books and a three-foot length of strong tape. Also, you will need two teachers for this object lesson.

Before class, stick four inches of the tape on the bottom book and stack the remaining two books on top of the first up on a shelf or on top of a cabinet. Allow the tape to hang down where you can pull it. (The idea is to pull the books down off the cabinet or shelf by pulling on the tape, so practice before class to make sure the tape setup works.)

Once the class arrives have the following conversation with your helper:

Teacher 1: (*noticing the tape*) Why is this tape hanging here?

Teacher 2: Don't pull on that tape, the books could fall.

Teacher 1: (*pulling a little on the tape*) Look nothing happened. I think it is fine to pull on the tape.

Teacher 2: It is not good to pull on the tape; the books will fall.

Teacher 1: (*pulling on the tape harder*) I am telling you the books are fine.

Keep going back and forth until the books fall. The idea is to give multiple warnings. Once the books fall, ask the class the following questions:

- **Why did the books fall?**
(*The teacher pulled the tape.*)
- **Did teacher 1 know that the books could fall before the tape was pulled?**
(*Yes, teacher 2 gave a warning that the books could fall.*)
- **Did teacher 1 listen to the warning?**
(*no*)

Explain to the class that in today's Bible story the people in Jerusalem ignore God's warning. Listen to what happens to them next.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 71, "The Fall of Jerusalem," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What were the people of Jerusalem doing wrong?**
(They were worshiping other gods.)

- **Who did God send to warn them?**
(God sent prophets like Jeremiah to warn them to turn back to God.)

- **Did the people listen?**
(No, the people would not listen to God's prophets, so God used the Babylonians to destroy the temple and bring an end to the idol worship there. God would rather have no temple than have his people worshiping other gods in his house.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- **Why was the temple so important?**
(The temple was where God's presence lived and it was where all the sacrifices for sin were made.)

- **Do we have a temple today?**
(We don't have a man-made building anymore, but God lives in the hearts of his people.)

- **Why don't we need a building anymore?**
(Jesus died on the cross so that we would never have to sacrifice animals again. Now, God can be with everyone who trusts in him and not just in a building.)

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Jeremiah 23:5–6

God sent his prophet Jeremiah to warn the kings of Judah. The kings did not listen to Jeremiah, and in the end there was no remedy—God allowed Jerusalem to be ransacked and the people carried into captivity (2 Chronicles 36:16).

God, however, was not finished speaking through Jeremiah. Jeremiah said that God would give his people another king from the line of David. This king would be a "righteous Branch" and he would be called "The LORD is our righteousness" (Jeremiah 23:5–6). Jesus is that King!

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 71—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why is the city burning?**
(The Babylonians attacked the city, wrecked it, and burned it.)
- **Did God warn his people to stop their idol worship?**
(Yes, but they didn't listen.)

■ **Would the temple ever be rebuilt?**

(Yes, after seventy years the temple would be rebuilt and the walls of Jerusalem restored.)

Jerusalem Falls

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large cardboard building blocks or cardboard boxes decorated to represent the wall of Jerusalem
- ✓ a statue or something to serve as an idol
- ✓ cardboard cut in the shape of knives and swords

Divide the class into four groups: the first will take the role of the people of Jerusalem; the second, the Babylonians (sometimes called Chaldeans); the third, the angels; and the last, the prophets.

Position the “Babylonians” armed with cardboard weapons on one side of the wall. Position the “people of Jerusalem” with the “idol” on the other side of the wall. Have the angels stand guard holding back the Babylonians. Have two of the prophet group act as Jeremiah and Ezekiel (holding the idol high above their heads) warning Jerusalem to stop their idol worship.

Have the people of Jerusalem put down the idol but pick it back up three times. Then read 2 Chronicles 36:15–20.

When you get to verse 16 where it says there was no remedy, have all the angels and prophets step away and allow the Babylonians to knock down the walls and capture the people of Israel.

After the skit, ask the children to tell you in their own words what happened. Correct any mistakes and make sure they understand what “no remedy” means—no matter how God tried to warn the people they did not obey.

No Remedy Puppet Skit

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ puppet
- ✓ toy medical kit with “hypodermic needle,” “medicine bottle,” “bandage”

The object of this puppet skit is to communicate what “no remedy” means and set up an opportunity to talk to the kids about how God tried to warn Jerusalem, but the people would not listen (2 Chronicles 36:16).

Puppet: Oh, I have a headache.

Teacher: Is it bad?

Puppet: *(moaning)* Oh, it’s terrible.

Teacher: Let me try to help. My mom has an old headache remedy. She said to close your eyes while someone rubs your head. *(Teacher rubs puppet’s head.)*

Puppet: Ouch, that made it worse ... oh, my head.

Teacher: Here puppet, try some pain reliever, maybe that will be a good remedy for your pain.

Puppet: *(takes the pills)* Oh, now I feel sick to my stomach too!

Teacher: Maybe if I rub your shoulders? *(The teacher tries, but the puppet just moans.)*

Puppet: Something has to work.

Teacher: This is the last resort.

Puppet: What is the last resort? Oh, my head.

Teacher: You won’t want to try it.

Puppet: Oh, my head. I’ll try anything.

Teacher: Well, the last time you had one of your headaches the doctor told me that if no other remedy could be found I would just have to give you a needle. *(Teacher holds up the needle.)*

Puppet: Are you sure there is no remedy? Do you have to use a needle?

Teacher: The doctor said this is the only remedy that will work.

Puppet: Oh, okay. But make it quick.

(Teacher gives puppet the shot and throws the needle in a trash can.)

Puppet: Just tell me when you’re going to do it.

Teacher: It’s done! How do you feel?

Puppet: I feel ... Why, my headache is gone!

Cycles of Rebellion

Have the children form a circle and follow this sequence of motions:

When God’s people worshiped the Lord they were happy and protected by God.
(Have everyone hold their hands up high.)

But the people forgot God and worshiped idols.” *(Have everyone turn around with their backs toward the center of the circle.)*

Each time God would correct them. *(Go around the circle and turn each child around to face the center of the circle.)*

But the people kept worshiping idols. *(Have everyone turn around facing out again.)*

But God in his mercy corrected them again and again. *(Turn the children back to the center one by one.)*

But the people of God turned away again. *(Have the children turn facing out.)*

Finally God destroyed the city and had the people captured and taken. *(Have all the children fall to the ground.)*

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 71 - THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

