

Adventures with GOD!

THE SINS OF ISRAEL LEAD THEM INTO CAPTIVITY (C.2.WINTER.6)

Biblical Reference	2 Kings 17:7-23
Key Verse	Psalms 81:11-12
Key Concept	Sin brings consequences.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name several reasons why Israel was taken into captivity. 2. Explain why the Israelites trusted in other gods. 3. Commit to serve God by doing what pleases Him.

Life Application

Many times the Lord had warned the Israelites through his prophets to turn to Him; to turn from the idols and evil habits they learned from their neighbors! But they would not listen. Their ears became deaf. The people that God had set apart for Him - as His special people - were removed from his presence and into exile. Today students will reflect on how continuous disobedience weakens us and slowly make it easy to do wrong and makes it more difficult to hear the voice of God who invites us to return to Him. We will see the example of Israel and learn that we must be holy and set apart for God. God wants us to turn to serve the one and only God.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minute
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Review	Schedule	5 minutes
Activity	Secret code	10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, white board & markers or paper	15 minutes
Bible Verse		10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read 2 Kings 17:7-23 two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this Psalm? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the Psalm? These verses talk about God who is always present and who has always existed.

Review: Ask for two children to come forward and share their experiences of the week in their decisions to seek God and obey even in difficult situations. Make sure everyone gets a chance to share at least once during the trimester. Then hand out their folders to put their worksheets in.

Activity: Give each child an activity sheet "Road to captivity." Divide the class into groups of two and explain the following: The Israelites were taken captive to Assyria! But why did God allow that? It did not happen overnight - the way to destruction had begun long ago. Start looking for the causes of captivity in the secret code below. (It was not surprising that they were taken captive as the Lord had told them this would happen through the prophets for). As a team they

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must unscramble the message to find out what Israel did that made God so sad and allowed them to be taken into captivity.

Bible Exploration: Read 2 Kings 17:7-23. Why so much fuss about idols? Why mention both idols and other gods in this quarter? Why again and again after God had brought them out of slavery in Egypt did the Israelites turn to follow carved logs and bronze statues? The truth is that idols also thrive today. Secretly many people give their allegiance to strange images of unknown characters and assume that they can achieve favorable results in their personal life or avoid tragic situations. For other people, their idols are almost like good luck charms. And for still others of us, idols become those things that become more important than God: popularity, money, success, love, relationships. This is what our culture tells us we should pay attention to and worship.

The Israelites were adopting the worship practices of the groups around them to be more successful with their crops and their armies. But no attitude could be further from what the true God demanded of them. He had chosen them to be a "special people" – set apart by Him as Creator of the Universe who wanted their love and faithfulness. He was not good luck charm. He was the God who created them and brought them out of slavery. The worship of other gods could not coexist with the worship of God. Remember that the Israelites had traveled the desert from Egypt to the Promised Land for 40 years. Then, they came to live in the big city with more advanced technology. They didn't know how to farm in this new place and began to see Baal as a possible way to ensure good harvests. Same with others who used other idols for protection in case their own religion did not bring them success. Idols became an alternative of where to put their faith. Idolatry penetrated both Israel and Judah. This led the Israelites into captivity.

Show them the chronological table of the kingdoms of Judah and Israel (Either write it on a white board or on a large piece of paper. Consult your Bible for the chronology). Ask the children to consider how many prophets had warned the Israelites to repent of their sins of idolatry and turn to God. (Six prophets before the captivity of the Israelites. Five prophets after Judah). God, with his persistent love, tried to communicate with his people through his prophets. Do you think that despite all this, the people of God heeded these warnings? (No).

They tested the religions of those that lived around them to find greater success with their crops and military struggles. But no attitude could be further from what the true God demanded. God had chosen them to be a "special people" – set apart for Him

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Holy means "set apart for God." As set apart for God, we must live the way most pleasing to God - not our own whims. You and I are very special to God too. He wants us to be holy - set apart to serve God. We can show the holiness through our words and our deeds.

Verse: Write the verse on the board. "But my people would not _____ to me; Israel would not _____ to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to _____ their own devices." (Psalm 81:11-12). Leave spaces as in the example for children to choose the appropriate verbs and place them in the right place.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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WORKSHEET - ROAD TO CAPTIVITY

The Israelites were taken captive to Assyria! But why did God allow that? It did not happen overnight - the way to destruction had begun long ago. Start looking for the causes of captivity in the secret code below. (It was not surprising that they were taken captive as the Lord had told them this would happen through the prophets for). As a team they must decode the message to find out what Israel did that made God so sad and allowed them to be taken into captivity.

Unscramble the code below:

1. roodop.s h edhdlto adsi risgeW _____
2. Lha.Sgtneiodahtgti drsan is _____
3. saispa .gBnlntie uhr _____
4. m ydeheltd .see vTcdtimioe _____
5. eo vsLh de awDh toetcn.adof nhatel pdee tn ris _____
6. tta smI ndiei.ehoanttro _____
7. Tvehp adtontinciicdiya.er _____
8. dcS.erreiithahldf cnciier _____
9. h eam hedeTs.b eymmoedondtyistnc _____

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WORKSHEET - ROAD TO CAPTIVITY

Answer sheet

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. roodop.s h edhdnlto adsisrisgeW | Worshiped other gods and idols. |
| 2. Lha.Sgtneiodahtgti drsan is | Said things against the Lord. |
| 3. saispagBnlntie uhr | Built pagan shrines. |
| 4. m ydeheltd .see vTcdtimioe | They committed evil deeds. |
| 5. eo vsLh de awDh toetcn.adof nhatel pdee tn ris | Despised the law of the Lord and the covenant. |
| 6. tta smI ndiei.ehoanttro | Imitated other nations. |
| 7. Tvehp adtontinciicdiya.er | They practiced divination. |
| 8. dcS.erreiithahldf cnciier | Sacrificed their children. |
| 9. h eam hedeTs.b eymmoedondtyistnc | They disobeyed the commandments. |

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WORKSHEET 2

Schedule: SEEK GOD AND BE HOLY.

During the week, take time each night to reflect on things that have happened in the day. You can be holy (set apart for God) anywhere. Write down one thing you did during the day (at home, at school, at church, with friends or alone) to show God your love.

"But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices." (Psalms 81:11-12)

Day	Influences	Reactions
Sunday		
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		

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Illustration – BAAL

