



Pre-K / K

FUN + FRIENDS + FAITH



November 13
1st Service

UNDERSTANDING YOUR LESSON

Throughout 2 Chronicles 36, it is easy to see that God is the one who raises up and removes kings and rulers and all who are in authority. But this reality can sometimes shake us in profound ways. It may cause us to ask why. This question is fair considering that we often see rulers who don't love God making decisions that display their lack of belief in God, and it is hard to imagine that God is the One who placed them in leadership.

Why would God allow bad leaders to be in charge? This is a tough question, but Scripture speaks to it in several ways. For one, Romans 13:1-2 reminds us to submit to those in authority since they are instituted by God Himself. Therefore, to resist authority is to oppose the commands of God, so long as the authority doesn't demand disobedience to God.

Another place we see this principle play out in Scripture is with Daniel. We find Daniel rebelling against the king's demand to worship something other than God. But we also find Daniel willfully subjecting himself to the king's leadership in other circumstances that do not demand his disobedience. Further, we find Daniel praying to God and confessing that He is the One who brings about the rise and fall of leaders.

Daniel 2:21 says, "He changes the times and seasons; he removes kings and establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding."

The Bible teaches us that God stands sovereign over all things, even the rise and fall of leaders. That includes the godliest of leaders and even those that are most opposed to the things of God. The Lord, in His good purposes may be seeking to wake us up, bring consequence, or refine His people, but His purposes are always good.

God is always working in all times and seasons. And though we may wonder about His purposes in certain circumstances, we can trust that they are always ultimately for His glory and our good, even when that is hard to understand or believe.

PLACES TO KNOW Babylon: The most powerful empire in the Middle East by 605 B.C. Babylon invaded Judah and then destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC.

**God's
People Were
Taken
Captive**

 **2 Chronicles 36** 

MEMORY VERSE

**I praise you because
I am fearfully and
wonderfully made;
your works are
wonderful, I know
that full well.**

Psalms 139:14

QUESTION

**What makes people
special?**

 **ANSWER** 

**People are special
because God made
us in His own
image.**



BUSY HANDS

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

When the children arrive for first service, introduce yourself, ask them their name, welcome them to the class and invite them to play with the other children. When most kids have arrived, ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

ACTIVITY PAGE // “Children Can Make Right Choices” for the pre-k class, “Finish the Pattern” for the kindergarten classes, crayons or pencils

Lead the pre-k class to complete the activity page: “Children Can Make Right Choices.” Read the directions to the children: **Circle each picture of a child making a right choice. Put an X on each picture making a wrong choice.** You may give the kids time to complete the task on their own and then review the answers or do it together as a class.

SAY: In our story today, we will learn that God was right to punish His people because they sinned. They were making wrong choices. Many years later, God sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for our sin.

Lead the kindergarten children to complete “Finish the Pattern” on the activity page. Read the directions: **Look at the pattern of crowns in each row. Circle the crown that comes next in the pattern.** You may give time for the kids to complete it on their own and then review the answers or do each row together as a group.

SAY: There were many different crowns in our activity. In today’s Bible story there were many different kings of Judah. Sadly, all of them did what was wrong. What do you think will happen next?

BUILD WITH BLOCKS // Four sets of various blocks from your classroom, timer on your cell phone

Provide blocks from your classroom for each group of children. You may divide the kids into groups according to tables or other requirements. Inform children that they should build something, but when the timer goes off, they must knock it down carefully and start over. Vary the amount of time on the timer. Remind the children to only knock down their own tower. SAY: **What did you enjoy doing more, building or destroying? It can be fun to knock down blocks.** In our Bible story today, the city of Jerusalem was destroyed. Today we will learn the sad story about Jerusalem being conquered and the people taken captive.

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY // Timer on your cell phone

Announce that you are setting a timer for 20 seconds. Explain to the children that they should sit as still and quietly as they can until the timer goes off. SAY: **Did 20 seconds feel like a long time? Do you think you could sit completely still and quiet until the end of class? No way, that is a long time!**

Continue



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Now, imagine how long 70 years would feel like. In our Bible story today, God was going to allow His people to be captured for 70 years. Wow! Let's learn about this Bible story.

GOD'S PEOPLE WERE TAKEN CAPTIVE // Bookmark, Bible, small group timeline, Bible story script, video: God's People Were Taken Captive, Bible story picture poster, giant timeline in the hallway (optional), 5 paper crowns with names listed below *

Place a bookmark at 2 Chronicles 36 in your Bible. Invite a child to open it. Reverently display the open Bible. SAY: Everything in the Bible is true. Some of the stories are happy, but some are sad. Today's true story is sad. It is about how God's people were taken captive. It is found in 2 Chronicles 36. Point to the Bible story picture on the small group timeline and the Bible story picture poster. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus. (You have the option of showing the children the giant timeline in the hallway.)

STORYTELLING TIP: Wear paper crowns labeled with the following names: *Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah. Wear and remove each as you tell the story. Crumble up the crowns for the bad kings as you take them off your head. You may also have one shepherd do the crowns as another shepherd reads the story.

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tip or show the video. Use the underlined version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

GOD'S PEOPLE WERE TAKEN CAPTIVE

Josiah, the king of Judah, had three sons: Jehoahaz (jih HOH uh haz), Jehoiakim (jih HOY uh kim), and Zedekiah (ZED uh KIGH uh). Josiah had a grandson too. His name was Jehoiachin (jih HOY uh kin). Each of them had a turn at being king. None of them was good like King Josiah.

After Josiah died, Jehoahaz became king. Jehoahaz was not king for very long. He did bad things that God did not like. The king of Egypt took Jehoahaz away and made him a prisoner. So Jehoahaz's brother Jehoiakim became king.

Jehoiakim also did what was wrong. The king of Babylon took Jehoiakim away and made him a prisoner. So Jehoiakim's son Jehoiachin became king.

Jehoiachin also did what was wrong. The king of Babylon sent some of his servants to Judah. They took Jehoiachin to Babylon. The king of Babylon made Jehoiachin's uncle king. His name was Zedekiah.

Continue



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Zedekiah also did what was wrong. He led God's people to do wrong things too. God loved His people. He did not want to destroy them, so He sent prophets to talk to the people. The prophets said, "Stop sinning! Love and obey God!" But the people did not listen.

It was time for God to punish the people of Judah for their sin. God allowed the king of Babylon and his armies to attack the people in Judah, and many of the people died.

The king of Babylon took everything out of the Lord's temple and burned the temple. They tore down the wall that stood around the city of Jerusalem. The army destroyed anything that was left.

The king of Babylon took the rest of the people to Babylon, and he made them work for him and his family. All of this happened just as God said it would.

CHRIST CONNECTION SAY: God was right to punish His people because they sinned. But God still loved them, and He was going to give His people a good king, just like He said He would. Many years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our King forever. Jesus took the punishment we should get for our sin.

REVIEW AND PRAY // None

SAY: Instead of helping God's people follow Him, the kings encouraged the people to do bad things. God even sent prophets to warn the people, but they ignored them. Finally, God had enough. It was time to punish His people for their sin. It is important to remember that God loved His people, but He could not allow them to keep doing wrong.

PRAY Invite the children to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him. SAY: Dear God, we are so glad that You love us even when we make wrong choices. Thank You for sending us, Jesus. Jesus is our perfect King. Help us to trust and follow Him always. In Jesus' name, amen.

KEY PASSAGE AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION // Index cards with one word each from the key passage taped to blocks, key passage marker (one verse for the kindergarten classes and a simplified version for the pre-k class), key passage posters, Bible, big picture question poster, key passage song on USB: "I Know This Very Well"

Place the key passage marker at Psalm 139:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Read each word on the blocks, then stack them in order. Refer to the key passage poster. Pre-k: I will praise God because He made me. Kindergarten: Verse is on page one of your lesson.



OPEN HEARTS

LIFE APPLICATION & SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Knock down the blocks after reciting the key passage.

SAY: Our key passage reminds us that God made us and considers us wonderful. Unfortunately, people don't always act wonderful. Sometimes we do bad things and refuse to obey, but God never stops loving us. That is why He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our perfect King forever. Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our wrong choices.

Sing the key passage song, "I Know This Very Well (Psalm 139:14)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION SAY: Our big picture question asks, what makes people special? Do you remember the answer? What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image.

Because all people are created in God's image, we are very special to Him. God wants to be with us forever. Sadly, people walk away from God. That is why God sent us Jesus. He is our perfect King sent to take the punishment we deserve and make a way for us to be with God forever.

PLAY THE "BABYLON, BABYLON GAME" // None

Instruct children to sit in a tight circle while holding both fists in front of them. Stand in the middle of the circle and tap everyone's fists as you say this rhyme: *"Babylon, Babylon, ready to attack. How many prisoners to bring back?"* Whoever you tap last chooses a number between 1 and 10. Continue by tapping everyone's fists as you count to that number. Whoever you land on last puts that fist behind her back. Continue playing until no children remain.

SAY: That was a fun game, but in our story today, becoming a prisoner of Babylon was not fun. Sadly, God's people followed bad kings and refused to obey Him. God was right to punish His people because they sinned. But God still loved them, and He was going to give His people a good king, just like He said He would. Many years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our King forever. Jesus took the punishment we should get for our sin.

SNACK AND CHAT // Classroom snack, coloring page on the reverse side of the activity page, crayons, Bible story picture poster

As you serve a snack towards the end of the class, show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed. SAY: What was your favorite part of today's Bible story? SAY: What did you learn about God in today's Bible story? SAY: Why were God's people taken captive?

If there is time at the end of class, the children may color the picture on the reverse side of the activity page used at the beginning of the lesson.



EXTRA IDEAS

STAND ON THE LINE // Masking tape

Before the session, lay a long strip of masking tape on the floor. Instruct the children to stand on the tape. Explain that when you say disobey, the children are to step off the tape. When you say obey, they are to stand with both feet on the tape. Say each word, alternating and varying the speed for as long as children are interested.

SAY: God's people were taken captive by the Babylonians because they refused to obey God. We too disobey God and deserve to be punished. But God loves us and wants us to be free from sin. We are special to God. What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image. That is why God sent Jesus to die on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. When we put our trust in Jesus, we are freed from sin.

Remember, if the kids need a break, you may march around the classroom, do a few jumping jacks, or play a game like "Simon Says." If needed, give the kids time to use up some of their energy before continuing with the lesson.

REMINDERS: The VIP meeting will be 8:30-8:40 in the Puddle Room. Attend for: Vision/Information/Prayer. Pick up your supply bin before going to class.

REVIEW the items in your bin, place the chairs around the tables, and be ready to greet the parents and children at the door.

FOLLOW protocol for sanitizing hands and cleaning large surfaces.