



THE PROPHETS

Date: 8.11.24 | Title: The Northern Kingdom Falls | Scripture: 2 Kings 17

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.

God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.

God wants us to live for His glory.

God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.

Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and promises.

High School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.

God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.

God wants us to live for His glory.

God is a righteous judge.

God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.

Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and promises.

Jesus gave His life for us on the cross and He is the only way for salvation.



MEMORY VERSE

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” 1 Peter 3:9



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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

The Israelites had a history of disobedience, and their sin separated them from God, creating the need for discipline. “The LORD disciplines the one He loves, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights” (Prov. 3:12). Since man was created to know and love God, God was working out a plan to bring His children back to Himself. 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, but both Israel and Judah continually refused to acknowledge God and repent. 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 was very patient with the Israelites and because of His great grace and compassionate character delayed judgement on them (2 Kings 10:30; 13:1-25; 14:23-29). Israel and Judah continually failed to obey the law- the Mosaic covenant, particularly as defined in Deuteronomy- but rather than judge them immediately as the law warned, God graciously relied on his promise to Abraham and patiently endured their disobedience while waiting for their repentance.

Unfortunately, this repentance never came, and Israel’s sin continued to get worse. The actions of the Israelites were in flagrant disregard for God’s law and covenant as well as His love. They lived in defiance of God’s prophets and their sin was to be taken seriously. Israel “sinned against the Lord their God” (17:7); they followed the pattern of pagan nations (17:8); they built high places and erected pillars and Asherim (17:9-11) and worshipped false gods (17:12). They were graciously warned by prophets to turn from their evil, but they were stubborn and resistant to the Lord’s counsel (17:13-15), turning toward Baal worship instead (17:16), even offering their children as sacrifices (17:17). God knew His people would not love Him fully.

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Eventually God's patience ran out, and the judgement described in Deuteronomy 28 started to pour out on Israel and later Judah. Due to their sin, the last days of Israel as an independent country are related in 2 Kings 17. The northern kingdom of Israel was known for having had all bad kings, and the evil King Hoshea ruled over Israel during this time. God allowed Israel's enemies, the Assyrians, to send the people into exile. In 722 BC, they invaded and destroyed Israel, scattering the inhabitants of the land into numerous other countries. 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. (1 Kings 14:15) Ultimately it was Israel's rejection by her God that brought about her fall (17:18, 20, 23). 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. The few good kings in the southern kingdom would buy Judah some more time, but eventually their fate would be similar.

In terms of the story line of scripture, Israel suffered the curses of the covenant (Lev. 26; Deut. 27-28), which Moses predicted they would experience if they violated the spiritual stipulations. They did not submit to him as their covenant Lord, therefore they suffered what the Lord threatened. After Israel went into exile, the land was populated both with natives of Israel and people from Babylon and other pagan nations (17:24-41), so that the north was compromised by intermarriage and intermixed religion.

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LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



TELL
THE
STORY



Tell the story: Use the Background Info for Leaders and the summary below as you teach today's lesson.

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 worshipped things that were not God and they did exactly what God told them not to do.

God sent prophets to warn the people to stop doing evil things. Israel did not listen. The prophets said bad things would happen if they did not obey God. They did not obey. 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 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. 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 to 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.

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

Read directly from Scripture, use the message, or the summary provided in the lesson

Re-Tell
The Bible
Story



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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.

Re-tell the Bible Story: Have students re-tell the story as best they can.

Attributes of God: Determine the characteristics of God that we see in today's story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?

Share the GOSPEL: 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.

We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are for our good and His glory! God knows everything about us. He knows what will give us lasting joy and paid a great price to make the way to be free from sin.

Jesus' death was the final sacrifice for sin. It was enough to cover all sin, and His resurrection proved it. As a result, God forgives sinners who repent and turn to Jesus. God declares them righteous and adopts them into His family. We still choose sin sometimes, and we have to deal with the consequences of sinful choices, but Christians will never again have to face separation from God as a punishment for sin.



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“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture.

1. Who was the final king of Israel, the Northern Kingdom? (2 Kings 17:1)
2. Why did Hoshea turn to Egypt for help? (2 Kings 17:4)
3. Why did God allow Assyria to defeat and capture Israel? (17:13-18)
4. How is God’s discipline a sign of His love?
5. What is the difference between consequences of sin and punishment for sin?
6. What does this story teach me about God?
7. What does this story teach me about the Gospel?
8. What does this story teach me about myself?

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.


TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.



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PRAYER PROMPTS

God, You are just and merciful. Thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. Help us to be quick to repent! We love You!

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Help the students in your group practice memorizing the books of the Bible:

- Torah: Genesis-Deuteronomy
- History: Joshua-Esther
- Poetry: Job-Song of Solomon
- Major Prophets: Isaiah-Daniel
- Minor Prophets: Hosea-Malachi
- Gospels: Matthew-John
- Paul's Letters: Romans-Philemon
- General Letters: Hebrews-Revelation

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the months of August, September and October we will be collecting money for the Connie Maxwell Children's Home. Please visit their website for pictures and descriptions of some of the services they offer that you can share with your group. A generous donor will match all of our donations. Encourage your class to collect money and donate it in the giving funnel in the upstairs lobby. Students can donate with their families as they arrive, or you can go together as a class on the way back to the Worship Center at the end of SS.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Work on memorizing this weeks verse with the students in your group. You can use the first letter of each word in the verse to help with this. For example, the unit verse would look like this:



Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?



Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?