

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS DESTROYED

2 KINGS 17



KEY PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 13:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do Christians continue to sin? Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.

CHRIST CONNECTION: The kingdom of Israel was destroyed because of their sin. We all sin against God and deserve death, but God sent Jesus to die in our place. Because of Jesus, those who trust in Him will never be removed from God's presence.

STORY POINT: God judged Israel's sin, and Assyria destroyed the Northern Kingdom.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Hoshea was an evil king in the long line of the evil kings of Israel. In Hoshea's ninth year as king, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, put Hoshea in prison, and moved all the Israelites to Assyria. The kingdom of Israel was officially destroyed.

Why was Israel destroyed? Although God had been patient, the Israelites witnessed their kingdom crumble because of their unrelenting sin. God had freed Israel from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh and brought them out of the land of Egypt. The Lord loved the people of Israel, performed many miracles, and commanded them to worship Him alone. The people of Israel were meant to be set apart as the Lord's people, but they worshiped false gods and lived like the nations around them.

Through the prophets, God repeatedly warned the Israelites to repent and turn back to the one true God, but the people did not listen. The Lord warned the people, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep my commands and statutes according to the whole law I commanded your ancestors" (2 Kings 17:13). The Israelites, however, did not listen. Instead, they rejected God and His covenant and followed worthless idols.

As the people ignored God's warnings, He became angry. God judged Israel's sin and allowed Assyria to destroy the Northern Kingdom. He rejected them and cast them out of His presence. The king of Assyria moved the people of Israel out of their land and brought foreigners to live in Israel's land and cities.

The kingdom of Israel was destroyed because of the Israelites' sin. God's gracious patience lasted for years, but the people failed to repent and seek the Lord wholeheartedly. Like Israel, we sin, and all sin deserves death. Those who fail to repent and trust in Christ will be separated from God forever. Yet, the unfailing love of the Lord has provided the way for people to be forgiven and live with God forever. Those who trust in Christ will escape God's punishment of sin. They will not only find forgiveness but also receive the Holy Spirit who empowers them to live for God.

As you prepare for this week's session, pray for boys and girls to see their need for Jesus. Pray also that you would be able to clearly communicate the gift of the Savior, thanking God for sending Jesus to restore what we have broken through our sin and disobedience. Rejoice together in the fact that Jesus died and rose again so that we might be saved from certain destruction!



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Warning!" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ sticky notes, 40

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ penny



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ set of 20 wooden blocks, 1 per group
- ☐ masking tape

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ index cards, 5 per group

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "The Northern Kingdom Was Destroyed" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ past Bible Story Picture Posters (optional)

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 14, Session 4" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ world map

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "Faithful to Him (Deuteronomy 13:4)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ cardstock sheets, 1 per kid



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “How would you feel if you warned someone about something dangerous, but he didn’t listen? What are ways people receive warnings about danger?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Warning!” activity page.

SAY “Today, we will see that even though God warned Israel about their sin, they didn’t listen. **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL’S SIN, AND ASSYRIA DESTROYED THE NORTHERN KINGDOM.**”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: DOWN THE LINE

Form kids into two teams. Direct each team to line up shoulder to shoulder. Give the first kid in each line a stack of 20 sticky notes. When you say “go,” challenge the kid to pull one sticky note from the stack and pass it down the line. Each kid will pass the sticky note to his or her neighbor until it reaches the last kid. The last kid in line will stick the sticky note to the wall. Repeat, until one team is the first to pass down all the sticky notes.

SAY “Imagine each sticky note represents thousands of sins against God. The sticky notes still wouldn’t add up to all the sin God’s people committed over the hundreds of years after God rescued them from Egypt. Down the line of each generation, God’s people continued to turn away from Him and follow idols. They didn’t listen to the prophets God sent to warn them of their sin. Eventually, their sin was so great, and God judged their sin. Today, we will see how God allowed the nation of Assyria to attack Israel and destroy it.”

☐ OPTION 2: CAPTURED!



Lead kids to form a large circle. Choose one kid to be It and direct her to stand in the middle of the circle. Give one kid in the circle a penny. Tell It to close her eyes and count to 10. While It counts, direct kids to hold their hands behind their back and pass the penny around the circle. When It finishes counting, tell her to point to someone in the circle and say “captured.” If she points to someone holding the penny, that kid is out. If not, play continues. Remind kids to keep their hands behind their backs the whole time. After a couple of rounds, choose a new kid to be It. Play as time allows.

SAY “You didn’t want to be caught holding the penny, did you? Today, we will see how Israel was caught in the greatness of their sin. Because their sin was so great, **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL’S SIN, AND ASSYRIA DESTROYED THE NORTHERN KINGDOM.** Let’s get ready to learn how God’s people were captured and taken to Assyria.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I’m glad you are here. If you have a Bible with you, will you hold it up? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today’s Bible story can be found in the book of 2 Kings. As we hear our Bible story, we’ll learn how the Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed by the nation of Assyria.

The people of Israel did not repent of their sin. They continued to worship idols and rebel against God. We’ll see how **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL’S SIN, AND ASSYRIA DESTROYED THE NORTHERN KINGDOM.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let’s pray and ask God to give us ears to hear and hearts that believe His words: ‘Dear God, You are good and always do what is right. You are right to judge sin. Help us turn away from our sin and remember that through Jesus we can be forgiven of our sin. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “Our big picture question is, **Why do Christians continue to sin?** What is the answer? [Allow responses.] The answer is, **Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.** Let’s say that together one more time: **Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.**

God loved His people, Israel, even though they continued to sin. They had a sin nature, like all people, and were not able to make themselves right before God. No one can make themselves sinless and right with God. But when we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and makes us right with Him. While Christians will still struggle with sin, they also have hearts that don’t want to sin. They want to obey God. One day, God will make believers sinless like Jesus! ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “God had done so much for His people. He saved them from slavery in Egypt, gave them a good land, fought their enemies, and made His presence known through the temple. But Israel continued to turn away from God and worship worthless idols. God provided prophets to warn His people to repent of their sin. Last week, we learned how Hosea was a prophet to Israel and how his marriage to Gomer was a picture of Israel’s unfaithfulness to God. Today, we will learn how the nation of Israel would suffer the consequences of their sin. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 17:1-24. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Northern Kingdom Was Destroyed.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS DESTROYED

“ King Hoshea (hoh SHEE uh) was another evil king in the long line of evil kings of Israel. He would also be the last.

In Hoshea’s ninth year as king, the king of Assyria captured Samaria in Israel, put King Hoshea in prison, and moved all the Israelites to Assyria. The kingdom of Israel was destroyed. This happened because of the sin of the Israelites.

God brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt, freeing them from slavery. He performed powerful miracles for them and took care of them. He gave them instructions, including a commandment to worship Him alone.

But instead of worshiping God alone, they worshiped other gods. They acted like the people who once lived in the land the Lord gave them. They created altars to other gods and burned incense to them on every high hill and under every green tree. **They did evil things, just like the nations who lived there before them.**

God warned His people over and over through prophets. He said, “Turn from your evil ways. Keep my commandments and the law sent to you through the prophets.” But the people did not listen. They were stubborn like their ancestors. They rejected God and the covenant He made with the people at Mount Sinai. **They followed worthless idols.**

As the people ignored God’s warnings over and over, God became very angry. He rejected them, removed them from His presence, and handed them over to the nation of Assyria. The king of Assyria moved all the Israelites out of the land and brought in foreign people to live in Israel’s cities.

The kingdom of Israel was destroyed. Only the tribe of Judah remained.

Christ Connection: The kingdom of Israel was destroyed because of their sin. We all sin against God and deserve death, but God sent Jesus to die in our place. Because of Jesus, those who trust in Him will never be removed from God’s presence. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use Bible posters: Hold up past Bible Story Picture Posters as you review God’s past actions for His people.

Active listening: When you teach how the people were stubborn and did not listen, invite kids to place their hands over their ears.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ The Northern Kingdom of Israel had wicked kings who led the people to worship idols and do evil in God’s eyes. Who was the last king of Israel? [Allow responses.] Hoshea was the last king of Israel before the king of Assyria came and destroyed Israel.

Why did God say Israel was destroyed and the people captured? [Allow responses.] This disaster happened because of the people’s sin against God. **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL’S SIN, AND ASSYRIA DESTROYED THE NORTHERN KINGDOM.** The Israelites were taken away to Assyria and removed from God’s presence. God is right to be angry at sin because He is holy and sin is always wrong.

How did God show patience with His people over the many years? [Allow responses.] God sent prophets like Elijah, Elisha, and Hosea to tell His people to turn from their evil ways and worship Him alone. But the people did not listen. They were stubborn and ignored God’s warnings. While God is patient, He will judge sin. The Bible tells us that if we hear God’s voice, we should not harden our hearts and ignore the way to be saved (Hebrews 4:7). God sent Jesus to die for our sin so we can be saved. Because of Jesus, those who trust in Him will never be removed from God’s presence. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ The Kingdom of Israel was destroyed because of their sin. We all sin against God and deserve death, but God sent Jesus to die in our place. Those who trust in Jesus will never receive the punishment their sin deserves. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 14, Session 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can we not be afraid of the coming judgment?
2. Why is important not to delay trusting in Jesus?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Remind kids that Dr. George and Joan Braswell were missionaries to Iran from 1968–1974. [Point to Iran on a world map.] Tell kids that missionaries who travel to different countries often have to learn the language of the people. Ask kids if they can speak more than one language or if they know any words of a different language.

SAY “ Before Dr. Braswell and Joan left for Iran, they were given the opportunity to study the Iranian language called Farsi. The Braswells were originally going to study Farsi in the United States, but they decided to learn the language in Iran. While beginning their mission work in Iran, they also started to learn Farsi so they could share the gospel in the language of the Iranian people. ”

Invite kids to say “Salâm” (Sah löm), which means hello in Farsi. Pray for God to send more



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

missionaries to Iran to share the good news of Jesus with the Iranian people.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Deuteronomy 13:4 together.

SAY “The Israelites were not faithful to God. They turned away from Him and worshiped false gods. Through faith in Jesus, we can be faithful to God. When we trust in Jesus, we are made new through the Holy Spirit. God’s Spirit helps us love God and worship Him alone.”

Provide kids with a piece of cardstock and markers. Lead kids to draw a foot, trace their hand, and draw a heart on their paper. In the foot, kids will write the words “follow the LORD your God and fear him.” In the hand, kids will write the phrase about keeping God’s commands. Then in the heart, kids will write the phrase about worshiping God. Invite kids to take home their papers as a way to keep learning the key passage.

Lead kids to sing “Faithful to Him (Deuteronomy 13:4).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “Lord, You are good, patient, and kind. Thank You for Your faithfulness and love. Help us trust You, worship You, follow You, and obey You in all things. Thank You for sending Your one and only Son, Jesus, so we can be saved. Amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 2 Kings 17. Tell kids that the nation of Assyria was hundreds of miles away from Israel. Tell kids that the capital city of Assyria was Nineveh, the same city God sent Jonah to preach against. Discuss how God used Assyria to judge Israel's sin, but Assyria would also be judged for their sin and violence (Isaiah 10:12).

Consider pointing out the location of Assyria (D11) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Kings 17:14-15 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “Have you ever been told to do something, but you didn't listen? Israel continued to ignore God and disobey Him, even though God gave them many warnings. God warned His people of the judgment their sin deserved because He loved them. Following God was best for them because God leads His people to what is good and right. His commands are for our good because they lead people to love one another.

The Bible is God's Word to us, and when we listen to its words, we come to see how God has made the way for us to be saved. In the Bible, we learn that God sent Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves. When we listen and obey God's call to trust in Jesus, we are saved from sin and death.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Why does God take sin so seriously?”

Remind kids that God is holy. Sin is disobedience and rebellion against God. God takes sin seriously because it affects His relationship with people, harms others, and has eternal consequences. Sin separates us from God, who we were made to be with. But God made the way to restore what sin has broken and bring people back to God through Jesus.

SAY “What are ways we are unfaithful toward God?”

Guide kids to see how we can put things like money, popularity, friends, or activities, before God in our lives. We sometimes love these things more than we love God. When we place anything before God, it becomes an idol.

SAY “How can we be faithful to God?”

Discuss how being faithful to God doesn't mean being perfect. Because of our sin nature, we won't be perfect. But we can strive to live like Jesus. We can be faithful to God by worshiping Him, obeying Him, following Him, and loving Him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We can trust that, in Christ, God will always be faithful to us. This truth encourages us to live for God no matter what.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: IT ALL FELL DOWN

Before the session, gather two sets of wooden tower blocks and place a strip of masking tape on eight blocks from each set. On each of the blocks with tape, write each of the following: worshiped idols, ignored prophets, disobeyed God's commands, created idols, burned incense, did evil things, rejected God, and didn't worship God.

Build the two wooden block towers with the tape strips facing outward. Form two groups of kids and assign a tower to each group. Direct kids to take turns carefully removing the blocks with the statements and continue until the towers fall. Repeat as time allows.

SAY “ Like the block towers were destroyed, the Israelites’ many sins led to their destruction. **GOD JUDGED ISRAEL’S SIN, AND ASSYRIA DESTROYED THE NORTHERN KINGDOM.** Like Israel, we sin and disobey God. The good news is that Jesus Christ came to take the punishment we deserve and save us from our sin. Through Jesus, believers can love God, obey Him, and worship Him rightly. ”

☐ OPTION 2: DON'T BE STUBBORN



Form kids into groups of three or four. Provide each team with five index cards. Write the following references on a dry erase board: Nehemiah 9:29; Psalm 78:8; Jeremiah 5:23; Jeremiah 16:12; Zechariah 7:11. Then lead groups to copy each reference to an index card. Provide each group with a Bible. Challenge kids to find each reference in their Bible and place the index card at the reference. The first group to find all five wins.

Read the passages aloud and discuss how they all share how God's people were stubborn, choosing to ignore God's ways and follow their own way. Invite kids to share what the consequence is for rejecting God's ways and following our own hearts.

SAY “ Time and time again God warned His people to turn from sin, but they were stubborn and did not obey. Today, ask God to give you a tender heart that hears His Word and obeys it. Remember that Jesus changes our hearts so we want to obey the Lord. God's ways are always best because He leads us to forgiveness, life, and joy. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.