

ANTIOCH CHICAGO

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT II THEME – EZEKIEL AND THE EXILE OF JUDAH

LESSON TOPIC

WELL? THAT'S A DEEP SUBJECT!

UNIFYING TOPIC

Later Experiences of Jeremiah

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Jeremiah 20:1-6; 37:1-38:28; 43:1-7

LESSON PASSAGE

Jeremiah 38:7-13

LESSON TEXT

- I. Courageous Advocacy for God's Prophet – (Jeremiah 38:7-9)
- II. Wisdom in Righteous Action – (Jeremiah 38:10-11)
- III. Compassion in Deliverance – (Jeremiah 38:12-13)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Then the king commanded Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die. (Jeremiah 38:10, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Sometimes those closest to us abandon us when we stand for what is right. Where can we seek support when those closest to us turn against us? When Jeremiah's life is threatened due to an unpopular message, God sends Ebed-melech, the Ethiopian, to advocate on his behalf.

LESSON AIM

To show that Jeremiah was wrongly cast into a cistern for speaking God's truth, and though it put him in danger, God used Ebed-melech to intercede with King Zedekiah and bring about Jeremiah's release.

LIFE AIM

To show that we might be done wrong for speaking truth to power, but we must know that since our God is sovereign, God will send one to deliver us from the hurt and harm of our enemies.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PURPOSE STATEMENT

To teach the life-changing power of God's Word resulting in salvation to the lost, transformed lives, and renewed and strengthened relationships in Jesus Christ. – (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

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LESSON TOPIC

WE'VE FALLEN AND WE CAN'T GET UP!

UNIFYING TOPIC

Judah Taken Captive

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

2 Kings 23:1—25:21

LESSON PASSAGE

2 Kings 24:18—25:9

LESSON TEXT

- I. Final Rebellion Against Divine Authority – (2 Kings 24:18-20)
- II. Siege and Capture of God's City – (2 Kings 25:1-7)
- III. Destruction of Sacred Space – (2 Kings 25:8-9)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Jerusalem and Judah so angered the LORD that he expelled them from his presence. (2 King 24:20, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People seem to understand the consequences of bad behavior, yet they persist in living selfishly and irresponsibly. What are the consequences of our bad choices? The prophets understood Babylon as the instrument of God's anger toward Judah for their blatant disregard of the covenant, though ultimately, God's love goes with them into their captivity and exile.

LESSON AIM

To show how Jeremiah's prophecy was fulfilled through Judah's fall and Zedekiah's downfall, illustrating the consequences of refusing to accept God's discipline.

LIFE AIM

To encourage believers to trust God's purposes during difficult seasons, knowing that surrendering to His will often prepares the way for future restoration.

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LESSON TOPIC

THE MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Story of Ezekiel

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:1-3:27; 8:1-4; 11:22-25; 24:15-24; 33:30-33

LESSON PASSAGE

Ezekiel 3:10-11; 24:15-24, 27

LESSON TEXT

- I. Receiving God's Message – (Ezekiel 3:10-11)
- II. Personal Loss as Prophetic Sign – (Ezekiel 24:15-18)
- III. From Silent Grief to Spoken Word – (Ezekiel 24:19-24, 27)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears. (Ezekiel 3:10, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Some people are willing to bear great sacrifices when they believe it serves a higher purpose. What is the greatest sacrifice one could make? God takes Ezekiel's beloved wife and instructs him not to mourn her death as a sign to the exiles, who are not to mourn the calamities about to fall on Jerusalem.

LESSON AIM

To illustrate that Ezekiel's calling was unique and distinct from many other prophets. There may be times when the LORD asks us to undertake tasks that seem nearly impossible or challenging. However, fulfilling God's mission will ultimately bring glory to Him.

LIFE AIM

God may call individuals to undertake tasks that challenge their very foundations. When fully committed to following the LORD'S guidance, the focus shifts from personal feelings to obeying His call and fulfilling His purpose.

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LESSON TOPIC

TO EVERYTHING TURN, TURN, TURN

UNIFYING TOPIC

Ezekiel Teaches Personal Responsibility

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Ezekiel 18:1-32; 33:1-20

LESSON PASSAGE

Ezekiel 33:7-16

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Divine Commission of the Watchman – (Ezekiel 33:7-9)
- II. The Principles of Divine Justice – (Ezekiel 33:10-12)
- III. The Promise of Redemptive Opportunity – (Ezekiel 33:13-16)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. (Ezekiel 33:7, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People often wish to break free from past failures and start fresh. What opens the door to a new beginning? As God's watchman, Ezekiel delivers a clear message: individuals are accountable for their actions and have the opportunity to repent, turn to righteousness, and live.

LESSON AIM

To show that Ezekiel was called to remind the exiles that although Jerusalem had fallen, as Jeremiah had prophesied, God still offered individuals the chance to repent and live, emphasizing that each person is accountable for their response to God's word.

LIFE AIM

To affirm that even when we don't understand or agree with what the LORD allows in our lives, trusting His justice and responding with obedience and repentance opens the door for restoration and hope.

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LESSON TOPIC

HOPE FLOATS

UNIFYING TOPIC

Ezekiel's Vision of Hope

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Ezekiel 47:1-12

LESSON PASSAGE

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Divine Source of Living Waters – (Ezekiel 47:1-2)
- II. Expansion of Divine Impact – (Ezekiel 47:3-6)
- III. The Universal Restoration and Healing – (Ezekiel 47:7-9, 12)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine. (Ezekiel 47:12, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Water flowing from a once-dying land symbolizes hope, growth, and renewal. Ezekiel's vision of flowing water, flourishing trees, and revived land reminds us of God's promise of restoration.

LESSON AIM

To illustrate how the angel shows Ezekiel the future restoration of God's people after their Babylonian captivity, transitioning from the temple to a river of healing that brings life and prosperity.

LIFE AIM

To encourage believers to embrace the healing and transformation of the Gospel by opening their hearts to God's Word.

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