

UPPER ELEM Flight Plan

October 18th



Lesson	Israel & Judah Taken Captive
Bible Passage	2 Kings 17 & 2 Chronicles 36
Story Point	Israel & Judah ignored God's prophets and were captured.
Key Passage	"The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9
Big Picture Q & A	How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.



leader bible study

God's people had a long history of disobeying Him, even though they were created to know and love Him. After Israel split into the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, God sent many prophets—Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and others—to warn the people to turn from their sin and return to Him. But both kingdoms ignored God's warnings.

For 200 years, the Northern Kingdom of Israel continued in idolatry. Though God was patient and compassionate, the people refused to listen. Under King Hoshea, God allowed the Assyrians to conquer Israel. Samaria fell, the people were taken into exile, and the Northern Kingdom was destroyed—just as God had said.

Judah, the Southern Kingdom, was not much better. Violence and injustice grew, and prophets like Habakkuk and Jeremiah warned that judgment was coming. Even though kings like Hezekiah and Josiah tried to lead the people back to God, Judah returned to idolatry after their deaths. Eventually, God used King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to discipline Judah. Jerusalem was destroyed, the temple burned, and most of the people were taken into exile for 70 years.

Yet even in judgment, God did not abandon His people. Through Jeremiah and Ezekiel, He promised restoration, life, and a future. God would bring His people home again and raise up a forever King from the line of David. This promise points to Jesus—the One who took the judgment for our sin, changes our hearts, and brings us back into God's presence forever. "My dwelling place will be with them," God said. "I will be their God, and they will be my people" (Ezek. 37:27). "The days are coming ... when I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel and Judah" (Jer. 30:3). God was going to save His people from captivity and raise up a new King—a forever King—from the line of David. (See Jer. 30:9.)



Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

October Focus: A Nation Divided



OCT 4th: The Kingdom Divided *1 Kings 11-12*

Story point: God divided Israel into two Kingdoms because Solomon sinned.



OCT 11th: Israel and Judah Taken Captive

2 Kings 17 & 2 Chronicles 36

Story Point: Israel ignored God's prophets and was captured. Judah didn't listen to God's warning.



OCT 18th: Ezekiel Gave Hope *Revelation 4-6*

Story Point: All people and creatures will worship Jesus.



OCT 25th: The Captives Came Home

Ezra 1-3

Story Point: God kept His promise to bring His People home.



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to share about a time they received a warning. Were they aware of the consequences? Did they listen to the warning or ignore it? Why? What happened?

Big Picture Question

As we get into our story, we need to set up a big picture question. This question will help us focus on a specific lesson we can learn from the various stories we will study over the next few weeks. **How did God plan to fix what sin broke?** *These next few weeks we will see how sin breaks apart the Nation of Israel—the nation God built up from Abraham's one son and talk through the answer: God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.*

Key Passage

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together **2 Peter 3:9**. At times, it may feel like the whole world is only getting worse and worse. Israel may have wondered; when will the Messiah come? We may wonder, when will Jesus come back? Our key passage is a beautiful reminder that God is faithful. He isn't wasting time, He is patiently waiting so more people have opportunities to turn from sin and trust in Jesus!

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

God's people, the Israelites, were not good at obeying God—but He never gave up on them. God sent prophets who showed the Lord's power and His faithful love even when His people were unfaithful. Still, king after king led Israel deeper into sin, and the people refused to repent. Judah followed a similar path. Though God sent prophets to warn them, Judah also chose disobedience. Both kingdoms ignored God's warnings, but even in the sadness of their sin and coming judgment, there is hope: God loved His people too much to let them continue in their rebellion.

Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **2 Kings 17 & 2 Chronicles 36** Read from the Bible or use the story example to help you tell the story. Wrap up with the insights below.

Facing the sad consequences of sin is never fun, but God loves His people too much to allow sin to tear them apart forever. You see, our sin always causes damage. It hurts our friends and families, it hurts us, and it breaks God's heart.

God created us to love Him and be filled with joy. When we choose sin, we cannot experience the best God has for us. God loves us, but He hates sin. The Bible teaches that God will always punish sin. For the people living in Israel & Judah, that meant being defeated by their enemies. The people ignored God's prophets and were captured. God used people that chose evil to punish Israel & Judah and prevent them from sinning more and more.

Our sinful choices still have consequences. Our sin still hurts us and those around us. Our sin still makes God sad. But if you believe in Jesus, His death covers your sin. Jesus took the punishment sinners deserve. When we believe in Jesus, God forgives our sin, declares that we are righteous, and begins fixing the damage sin has caused in our lives. Someday, Jesus will come back again and fully fix all the brokenness caused by sin. How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.



Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: ISRAEL & JUDAH IGNORED GOD'S PROPHETS AND WERE CAPTURED.

God was angry with the people of Judah. They sinned and did not obey God. But God loved His people. He wanted them to turn back to Him. Finally, it was time to punish the people of Judah for their continual sin. God allowed the king of Babylon and his army to attack Judah.

All of the people who were still alive were taken back to Babylon. Everything the prophet Jeremiah had warned about happened, just like God said it would.

God had done so many good things for the Israelites. Even though God loved them like a father, the Israelites forgot about God. They worshiped things that were not God, and they did exactly what God told them not to do.

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

No. 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.

One day, the king of Assyria and his army attacked Israel. King Hoshea was thrown into prison. The Assyrian army surrounded the capital of Israel.

Finally, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and forced the people to leave their homes. He made them walk hundreds of miles to Assyria. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed.

Christ Connection: 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.



Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find 2 Kings 17 & 2 Chronicles 36.
Lead the group to discuss:

1. How is God good for disciplining His people?

a good father does not let his children continue in disobedience. Discipline guides and trains a person in the right way to live. Point out that God's discipline is proof of His love for us. God knows the best way to live and wants us to have life in Him
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 3:12.)

2. How did God punish our sin? *the right punishment for sin is death. Instead of punishing us, God sent His Son. Jesus took the punishment we deserve. He died on the cross for our sin and rose again so we can have forgiveness and life with God forever.* (Option: read 1 Pet. 3:18.)

3. How are we like the people of Israel and Judah? *Lead kids to discuss that like the people of Judah, we deserve to be punished for our sin. But God loved us and sent His Son to take the punishment we deserve. Jesus never sinned. He died on the cross in our place, and He is alive!*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 3:21-24.)

4. Can anyone's sin be too much for God to forgive? *Point out that for generations, God's people had rebelled against Him. They broke His laws and worshiped false gods. But when Jesus died on the cross, He died for all our sins—past, present, and future. No sin is beyond Jesus' forgiveness for everyone who trusts in Him.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 5:8-11.)

What movement-based activity can I use?



God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

- HOLY - PATIENT

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min

Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Ongoing Object Lesson for the Temple

Not necessary, but could be a powerful way to make the connections of the lessons this month: Have the children work together to build a temple out of sugar cubes. Keep this temple for the next few weeks and incorporate it into future lessons as you find helpful:

Oct 4th: Solomon Built the Temple

Give each child a cotton ball and have them stretch it out without breaking it. Have them add their cotton to the temple to show how God's glory filled the temple when it was dedicated.

Have the kids draw on little pieces of paper, or cover very small objects with gold paper. Tuck these treasures in the temple.

Oct 11th: The Kingdom Divided

When the kingdom split, the temple in Jerusalem was part of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Ask the kids to consider where the Northern Kingdom would go to worship.

Oct 18th: Israel & Judah Taken Captive

Take the treasures out of the temple then destroy it by knocking it down, pouring hot water over it, etc.

Oct 25th: The Captives Come Home

Have the kids rebuild the temple, but do not provide as many or as nice of resources. Highlight how rebuilding was a bittersweet thing for the people of Israel.

Human Knot

Instruct kids to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in a circle, facing inward. Instruct everyone to hold out his or her right hand and take the hand of someone else in the circle. Then instruct everyone to hold out his or her left hand and take another hand. Make sure kids aren't holding hands with someone directly beside them. Challenge kids to work together to figure out how to untangle the human knot without letting go of hands.

- You were in quite the mess! Today we heard a story from the Bible about God's people who were in another type of mess: they were tangled up in their own sin.

Hot/cold Game

Choose one kid to be *It*. Hold up a small object such as lip balm, an eraser, or crayon for everyone to see. Instruct *It* to stand facing a wall and close his eyes. Hide the object somewhere in the room. Then invite *It* to begin seeking the object. Encourage the rest of the class to guide *It* by saying "cold" if he is far from the object or "hot" if he is near it.

As *It* moves, kids should say "hotter" or "colder" to guide his direction. Kids may also use descriptions such as "freezing" or "burning up" to indicate proximity to the hidden object. Play until *It* finds the hidden object. Ask *It* to talk about the importance of listening to the clues.

- Long ago, God sent prophets to God's people to warn them about punishment for sin. Did the people listened to the prophets or ignored them?

Chain Breakers

Provide each kid with a strip of paper. Help the kids write on their strips things they have done in the last week that were dishonoring or disobedient to God. Use tape to make the strips into loops and connect them together to form a paper chain. Stretch the chain out to show how long it is. Then, explain the gospel, and allow the kids to tear through the chain. You may wish to use the gospel poster.

- In our story today, God's people were led away in chains because they kept sinning against God. The Bible teaches us that sin enslaves us. Thankfully, God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin and give us freedom to love and obey God. Jesus breaks the chains of sin that hold us and gives us new life with God forever.



5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their Travel Guide.**

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words. Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're
ready
for
Sunday!



