



| A Devotional Resource *for* Families

In The Beginning

GOD'S STORY THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT



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How to Use This Book

The book you now have in your hands has been a labor of love. It began with a realization that no matter how excellent and effective our teaching may be, it cannot compete with the influence of you as parents. God has called you specifically and gifted you uniquely to lead your kids “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Plainly said, you are the greatest spiritual influence in the lives of your kids. To some of you that is a very intimidating and overwhelming thought (I know I feel that way).

Therefore, we as the church want to help encourage and equip you in your role as the primary discipler of your children, and that is why this book exists. Our goal is to set you up in the best way that we can to have spiritual conversations as a family. Our hope is that you will have opportunities on Sundays, perhaps at lunch after Sunday school, as well as a couple of times a week with the Family Devotionals provided, to talk about God and His importance in our everyday lives.

To help accomplish this, we have standardized the Sunday school curriculum so that everyone from JK-12th grade will be learning the same things each week (age appropriately, of course). This allows you as parents to know exactly what all of your kids are learning without having to keep track of multiple e-mails or schedules. Below you will find exactly what is included and how best to use it.

OUTLINE

We provide you with the main points that your students will be learning each week. We do this so you can be best prepared to discuss what they learned and answer any questions that might come up. We also have included a lengthy section of context for each lesson. We believe it is important for all of us to see how each story in the Bible does not stand alone, but instead fits into the larger drama that God has unfolded.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

The point of these questions is to be conversation starters for you as a family. They are not exhaustive as to the content of what your children have learned that Sunday, but should just get things started for your family. Our hope is that your children will come to expect a conversation about what they learned in Sunday school for two main reasons. First, we want them to see spiritual conversations as a normal and important part of life and second, we hope this expectation will make them more attentive to what they are learning.

FAMILY DEVOS

We have provided two days worth of Family Devotionals for you to do as a family at home. We chose this number so as to not overwhelm families or discourage them for not being able to live up to expectations. Our hope is that the two provided will be a springboard for even more times of family worship during the week. The two we have included will help build a foundation for the Bible character that they will study on Sunday. You will also see a page on “How to Do Family Devotions” which is there only as a resource for you and not a concrete model that must be followed. In the end, the most important thing is for families to spend time together focused on God’s Word and prayer; how that is accomplished is secondary.

Andrew Keasling

How to do Family Devotions

When discussing family devotions, the first thing you must know is that there is not just one correct way to do them. Each family is made up of distinct individuals, each with a different personality. Therefore, trying to create a “one-size-fits-all” approach to family devotions is foolish. Below are some helpful hints and guidelines as you lead your devotions. Some of them will be very helpful, while some you will realize do not work for your family. In the end, the point is for you as a family to take time together, reading God’s Word and praying together. However you accomplish this is truly a secondary concern.

PLACE MATTERS

- It will be important to find a consistent place where you always do family devotions. Changing the location can drastically change the dynamics.
- Everyone should be at the same eye level. You don’t want some on the floor and some in chairs or on the couch. This will encourage participation by all members because they will feel as if they are a part of the group.
- Minimize the distractions. Honestly, doing family devotions is hard enough! Only you know what might distract your kids so be sure you eliminate as many interruptions as possible.

PRAYER MATTERS

- It is important for your children to see the importance of prayer. Therefore, be sure that you pray to begin and end your time together. Often it works best to choose one family member to open the time in prayer (which also helps settle busy hearts). At the end is an opportunity to let everyone pray.
- Give your children a role in prayer. One of the things that my family does that has been successful is that we have four prayer categories: 1- Zachary’s class, 2- Bryson’s Class, 3- Our extended family and friends, and 4- Missions. Each time we give someone in the house one of these prayer categories. To minimize the “I want...” of our children, we rotate who assigns who to pray. That way, everyone gets a chance to decide who prays for what. It has saved a lot of disagreements. For our missions category, we alternate between a Mission Memphis partner and a World Missions partner and it has been such a blessing to watch and hear our kids pick up on and pray for those ministries. We also switch it up some nights and just have a time of confession or adoration or thanksgiving so they don’t think of God as just someone from whom you ask things.

THE WORD MATTERS

- God’s Word is the only thing He promises will bear fruit. It is so important to not only expose them to God’s Word but also to teach them how to think about it. One of the best ways to start doing this is to continually remind them that these stories are REAL - Isaiah 55:11.
- Get them to interact with the Bible for themselves. It is a huge temptation to just provide the answers for them (since we know everything) but they will get so much more out of it if they think about it for themselves. The hardest part for me in this is that I lose the control. I have to constantly remind myself that I want them to get something out of God’s Word and not get frustrated when they don’t get out what I want them to.

HOW TO DO FAMILY DEVOTIONS

- Encourage every little step. It will be very important to encourage every interaction they have with God's Word. They will be more willing to share when they know it is a safe place for them to come with their thoughts. At times, that will mean you are going to go down some rabbit trails, but it will be worth the journey. As a part of that, you need to make sure that they get the truth; this means gently correcting when their theology gets out of whack.

TIME MATTERS

- One of the most important things you are teaching your children is that being together is very important. Just the simple act of carving out time every week that does not involve the TV or a meal out will bear fruit. The intentional act of studying the Word and prayer together will bear fruit even if it is down the line.
- Have fun! I know it sounds silly but if your kids have fun doing family devotions, they will want to keep doing them. For us, that is a short game or a role playing moment at the beginning but for you, it can be whatever. Sometimes I think we are afraid that we will be irreverent when we attempt to have fun, but we must remember that God created fun and laughter, so participating in those activities pleases Him.

D6 Driving Values

At Second, we believe in three guiding principles, known as the D6 Driving Values. We hope that as you and your family go through these devotions together, you will be further encouraged in your relationship with the Lord, your church community, and in your Kingdom mission.

THE LORD IS MY PRIMARY DEVOTION

- Confronted by the holiness of Christ, I seek Him in daily worship, prayer, and repentance. *Isaiah 6:1-8*
- Compelled by the love of Christ, I strive to be obedient to Him in my thoughts, words, and deeds. *II Corinthians 5:14*
- Created new in Christ, my identity is no longer in the things of this world. *II Corinthians 5:17*
- Confident of the eternity secured for me in Christ, I have peace in the midst of the troubles of this life. *Phillipians 4:6-7*

THE CHURCH IS MY PRIMARY COMMUNITY

- Knowing that the Gospel liberates me from idols, I cannot imagine not joyfully worshipping God every week with my brothers and sisters in Christ. *Thessalonians 1:9b*
- Knowing that the Church is called to be a holy nation, set apart from the things of the world, I will embrace this calling by seeking to be Christ-like in all aspects of my life. *I Peter 2:9-12*
- Knowing that I am a steward of my resources and not an owner, I cheerfully release my resources to build His Kingdom and not my own. *Matthew 25:14-30*
- Knowing that the Body of Christ is essential to my sanctification, I actively seek relationship and accountability within the church in order to grow in Christ. *Ephesians 4:11-16*
- Knowing that God has given me spiritual gifts to use in the church, I willingly serve. *I Corinthians 12:4-7*
- Knowing that Jesus is present where two or more are gathered in His name, I happily pray with and for my brothers and sisters in Christ. *Matthew 18:20*

BUILDING CHRIST'S KINGDOM IS MY PRIMARY MISSION

- Belonging to Christ's Kingdom causes us to live as a distinct people who are called to be about applying Christ's work of redemption as far as the curse is found as we eagerly await His imminent return and the renewal of all things. *Romans 8:19-21*
- Building Christ's Kingdom in all of life is an act of worship, and the reason I am alive is to multiply worshippers and redeem culture. *II Corinthians 5:16-21*
- Building Christ's Kingdom begins in multiplying worshippers of Christ in my own household. *Joshua 24:15*
- Building Christ's Kingdom is the lens through which I filter every decision as I further the work of redemption. *Romans 12:1-2*
- Building Christ's Kingdom prioritizes Christ's work of redemption to the extent of intentionally sacrificing our time, money, and talents in furthering the application of the redemption of Christ. *I Corinthians 10:31-33*

OVERVIEW OF OLD TESTAMENT

And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. – Luke 24:25-27

I am more and more amazed at just how few Christians have ever read, let alone studied, the Old Testament. Most people are familiar with the stories of Genesis and David and also have a favorite Psalm and Proverb, but when pressed, believe that the Old Testament isn't really worth their time. The most common objections I have heard are:

- Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament so we don't really need to know it
- It's so old and outdated that it just doesn't apply at all anymore
- I have tried to read it but it's just too hard to understand
- I am a "New Testament" Christian
- And my personal favorite: I like the God of the New Testament better than the God of the Old Testament

The problem with each of these excuses comes down to the fact that the Old Testament is God's inspired Word for us and that Jesus read, knew, understood and pointed others to the Old Testament constantly in His own ministry. We even see Jesus rebuking some of His disciples after the Resurrection for not knowing and understanding that the Old Testament was ultimately about Him. Jesus responds by teaching them the Old Testament!

Therefore, if it was important enough for Jesus to know and teach then it must be valuable for us as well. My hope is that as we study this together this year, we will see the overarching work of God's grace towards His people from the very beginning and His ultimate goal for all of creation, which is to spread His Glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth.

May you find God's love and heart on each page and be empowered to live for Him more boldly!!

WEEK

1

INTRODUCTION

CREATION

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

Seeing the importance of studying the Old Testament

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

CONTEXT

- None yet, just getting started

OUTLINE

I. Misconceptions about the Old Testament

- A. It is boring and old
 - 1. Has some of the most familiar stories in all of the Bible
 - 2. The Old Testament gives us great truths (doctrines) in story form so we can more easily understand them
 - a. Pictures of sin
 - b. Pictures of sacrifice
 - c. Pictures of worship
- B. The God of the Old Testament is mean and angry while God of the New Testament is loving and forgiving
 - 1. The God of the Old Testament IS the God of the New Testament
 - 2. The Old Testament is full of stories of God's grace and mercy
- C. Since Jesus came the Old Testament doesn't matter anymore
 - 1. Jesus often referred to and quoted the Old Testament
 - a. A few examples – Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; Matthew 5:21, 27, 31, 33, 38; Matthew 15:1-5; Matthew 19:17-20; Matthew 21:31-32; Matthew 22:37-39
 - 2. The Old Testament lays out the framework for the New Testament
 - a. Shows our need for God, sin needs payment, God desires obedience, We need a helper, etc.

II. Why should we study the Old Testament

- A. Because it is God's Word
 - 1. God inspired the writers of the Old Testament and preserved it for us so we can have it

2. It is almost 75% of the Bible, about 3x the size of the New Testament
- B. It is part of the larger unfolding story of God
1. Not just a collection of stories but one continuous story
 - a. Theme is God's heart for His people
 - b. Shows the purpose for which we are created—to show God to others
 2. God is a personal being interacting with real people for His purposes
 - a. Uses people to bring Him Glory
 - b. For their good and His Glory
- C. This is history
1. True events that actually happened in space and time
 2. Helps us to have a greater understanding of the world around us
- D. God uses the Old Testament to reveal Himself—1 Timothy 3:14-17
1. When Timothy is referring to Scripture here he is referring to the Old Testament
 - a. Nothing else was considered Scripture yet
 2. What Timothy says about the Old Testament
 - a. There is an expectation that we will know it
 - i. Continue on what you have learned
 - b. Should know it from childhood
 - i. Brought up in it
 - ii. Calls them sacred writings
 - Special and set apart
- Able to make us wise for salvation
- i. The Old Testament points us to Jesus
 - ii. We can see God's plan for saving people that is finalized in work of Jesus
- c. All Scripture is breathed out by God
- i. Comes directly from God
 - ii. Profitable for us
 - Special and set apart
- Makes us complete and equipped for good work
- i. The Old Testament helps us to know how to live
 - ii. We can know what God expects from us

III. How do you categorize the Old Testament to make it easier to understand

- A. Comes from Carol Kaminski
- B. Breaks up the Old Testament like acts in a play
- C. CASKET
 - 1. C- CREATION
 - 2. A- ABRAHAM
 - 3. S- SINAI
 - 4. K- KINGS
 - 5. E- EXILE
 - 6. T- 2nd TEMPLE

IV. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God has given us the Old Testament so that we may read it and know Him better
- B. We need to see it as one large story of God's power and love for His creation

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What do you usually think about when you think of the Old Testament?
- What are your favorite stories from the Old Testament? Why?
- Why is it important to study the Old Testament?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What do you think of when I say Old Testament?
- What are 3-4 stories you remember from the Old Testament?
- What do you think is the point of the Old Testament?
- What books of the Old Testament have you read?
- Why should you study the Old Testament?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What helps you when you are faced with hard decisions?

READ MATTHEW 4:1-11

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where was Jesus led? Who led Him there?
- How long was Jesus there?
- What was the first way that Jesus was tempted? How did He respond?
- What was the second way that Jesus was tempted? How did He respond?
- What was the third way that Jesus was tempted? How did He respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why was it significant that Jesus Himself quoted the Old Testament when He was tempted?
- Where do you go when you are tempted?
- How does God's Word help you as you face temptation?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What difference does the Old Testament make for you?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is someone that God uses the most to help you? How do they help you??

READ ACTS 8:26-40

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the angel of the Lord say to Philip?
- Who did he find? What was his job?
- What was he reading?
- What did Philip ask him?
- How did he respond?
- What happened with the eunuch? Philip?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are the people you have that explain the Scriptures to you?
- How does Philip help the eunuch understand?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does God use the Old Testament here to reveal Jesus?
- What difference does the Old Testament make for you?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

2

CREATION

CREATION

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To understand why God created people and everything else

GENESIS 1

CONTEXT

- The Earth goes from nothing to full at God's command

OUTLINE

I. Why studying the Creation is so important

- A. Answers one of the most fundamental questions all humans have
 1. Where did we come from?
 2. We understand that there has always been a purpose to life
 - a. Not random or an accident

II. Why did God create anything?

- A. Did He need something else? Was He bored? Did He just want people to hang out with?
- B. NO!!! God created everything because it would bring Him Glory
 1. All God creates reflects on how powerful and great He truly is

III. How did God create?

- A. Verses 3, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26
- B. God is powerful enough that He created the whole Earth and all that is in it simply by speaking
 1. He spoke and it came to be

IV. What did God create?

- A. Day 1- Light
- B. Day 2- Waters and Sky
- C. Day 3- Seas, Dry Land and Plants
- D. Day 4- Sun, Moon and Stars
- E. Day 5- Birds and Fish
- F. Day 6- Land Animals and Man

V. Why did God create the Earth and sun and plants and animals?

- A. To take care of the needs of the people He would create
 - 1. Sun–Give them light to see and move
 - 2. Darkness and night–Allow them to get rest they need
 - 3. Water, plants and animals–Food and drink needed to survive
 - 4. Animals–a purpose–to subdue and have dominion
- B. God shows that He had a unique plan even before man was created

VI. Why did God create man?- Genesis 1:26

- A. See picture of the Trinity even from the beginning–let us make man in our image
- B. To resemble God
 - 1. Made in His image
 - 2. Show others what God is like by how we live
 - 3. Reflect His love and goodness in all we do
 - a. His image bearers
 - b. Special role for man that nothing else in creation can do
- C. Represent God
 - 1. Have dominion over the Earth
 - 2. We are called to rule on God's behalf
- D. Multiply God
 - 1. Be fruitful and multiply
 - 2. We are to pass God on to the next generation
 - 3. We are to take God everywhere that we go
 - a. Spread Him as we resemble and represent Him
 - b. Whole Earth is to abound in the things of God

VII. How did God respond to His creation?

- A. When He made everything besides man–it is good
- B. When He made man–it is VERY good

1. Man is God's greatest creation
2. Takes more pleasure in us than anything else

VIII. What is God's Ultimate Purpose in Creation?

- A. To fill the Earth with His Glorious Kingdom

IX. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God created the Earth and everything in it for our benefit; therefore we need to resemble, reflect and multiply Him wherever we go

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did we learn was the reason that God created the Earth and everything in it?
- What did we learn was the reason that God created humans?
- What are ways that you can be resembling, reflecting or multiplying God? What keeps you from doing that?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What are ways that you can resemble God?
- What are ways you can represent God in your daily lives?
- How are ways you can fill the Earth with God's glorious Kingdom?
- How often do you think about how and why God created the Earth and you?
- What is one way that you think God can be using you right now?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is one of the best things you have ever made? Why do you like it so much?

READ GENESIS 2:5-25

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it say that God made man out of? What do you think about that?
- What did God do to give man life?
- Where did God put the man?
- What did God say about man being alone?
- What job did God give Adam in verses 19 and 20?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What do we know about the trees God put in the Garden?
- Why did God put man in the garden?
- What command did God give Adam in the garden?
- What commands has God given to you?
- How did God make Eve?
- What does God provide for Adam?
- What is God's plan for men and women in verse 24?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What do others say about how people were created?
- Are you prepared to defend what the Bible says about creation?
- Where is a place that you have a hard time obeying the Lord? Why?
- Who has God placed in your life to be a helper to you?
- What would it look like to be in God's Presence and not ashamed?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

2

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could be present at any one event in time, what would it be and why?

READ JOHN 1:1-14

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What was around in the beginning according to John?
- What all did the Word make?
- What other words are used to talk about the Word?
- What does the Word do in verse 14?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who is the Word?
- What does it say about the Word and creation?
- What does it say about Jesus being the light?
- What does He give to those who believe in His Name?
- What difference does it make that the Word became flesh?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What difference does it make that Jesus was there at creation?
- What does it look like to be a child of God?
- How are you living out your identity as a child of God?
- How does it make a difference that the Word lived among us?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

3

SIN

CREATION

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To understand how sin entered the world and what impact it had
on our relationship with God

GENESIS 2:15-27, 3:1-24

CONTEXT

- The Earth goes from nothing to full at God's command
- God decided to create in order to bring Glory to Himself
- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live
- God created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth

OUTLINE

I. God's command to Adam

- A. You can eat of every tree in the Garden but one
- B. Don't eat from tree of knowledge of good and evil
 - 1. If you do you will die
- C. Context of this is grace
 - 1. God had provided everything for them and taken care of all their needs
 - a. They had to do nothing to earn or deserve this
 - b. God did it simply because He loved them
 - 2. God asks them to trust Him in one thing
 - a. To believe that God knew what was best and wanted what was best for them

II. Serpent's Deception

- A. Plants a seed of doubt in Eve's mind—"Did God really say...?"
 - 1. Wants her to start to doubt God's goodness to them
 - 2. Adds to God's command
 - a. Can't eat of any tree in the Garden?—not just one but all
- B. You see how the seed of doubt starts to grow
 - 1. Eve also adds to God's command
 - a. We can't eat of tree in middle of Garden, neither can we touch it, or we will die

- C. Serpent uses that doubt to feed her lies
 - 1. You will not surely die but will become like God

III. Adam and Eve choose sin

- A. Eve ate the fruit and gave to Adam and he ate
- B. Not a passive act but active—they made a choice to sin
- C. This is cosmic treason
 - 1. We don't see sin as that big of a deal
 - 2. This was agreeing with the serpent that God isn't a good King
 - 3. This was saying that they knew better than God did
 - a. Isn't good and can't be trusted?

IV. Effects of the Fall

- A. Hurts our relationships with each other
 - 1. Shame enters the world
 - a. Realized they were naked and covered themselves
 - b. Before, they were naked and had no shame
 - c. We don't want people to really know us so we cover up who we really are
- B. Hurts our relationship with God
 - 1. Instead of enjoying God they are now scared of God
 - 2. Instead of believing that God sees them as "very good" they now believe that God is angry with them and hide from Him
- C. Curses come from our original call
 - 1. Multiply—pain now in childbirth
 - 2. Subdue and have dominion—working land will be difficult
- D. Ultimate Curse
 - 1. Death now enters the world for the first time
 - a. Was not supposed to happen
 - b. Is not part of God's original design

V. God's grace in the Fall

- A. God seeks after them

1. Comes to them and calls out to them
2. Shows His love for them still
- B. God spends time with them
 1. Asks them what happened—even though He already knew
 2. Wanted them to confess it to Him
 - a. Why we also confess our sins to God
 - b. For us more than for Him
- C. Adam and Eve don't die immediately
 1. God had said to Adam "in the day that you eat of it you will surely die"
 2. How does God satisfy justice and yet not punish them for their sin??
 - a. Something had to die to cover their sin
 - b. Verse 21- "the Lord God made for Adam and his wife garments of skin and clothed them."
 - i. No animal would just willingly give up their skin and fur, so God would have had to kill them in order to clothe Adam and Eve
 - ii. God provides the means for them to be forgiven
 - Shows us Jesus
- D. God provides covering to take away their shame
 1. They tried to cover shame with fig leaves
 2. God's covering truly clothed them
- E. God sends them out of the Garden
 1. Seems like a harsh punishment
 2. Is actually protecting them
 - a. God doesn't want them to eat of tree of eternal life
 - b. God doesn't want them living forever in their fallen state
 - i. They would have to live forever separated from God
 - ii. God has a plan to allow them to live forever with Him
 - Jesus

VI. God's plan continues

- A. He sends out Adam and Eve with a new understanding of His love and grace so they might pass it on to all generations

VII. SO WHAT??!!

- A. Our sin is a rebellion against God—saying we know better and are better than Him and His plan
- B. Because of sin we are separated from God and can't come to Him on our own
- C. We need a sacrifice to forgive and take away our shame and sin

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What tempted Eve to sin?
- What tempts you to believe that God isn't really good?
- What does it mean to you that sin is rebellion and treason?
- How did God show Adam and Eve grace in the midst of their sin? How does God show you grace?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What do you like and not like about this account? Why?
- Do you live your life seeing God as your king? Why or why not?
- How do you typically see your sin? Why?
- Do you see sin as rebellion and treason? What does that mean to you?
- Do you really ever see your sin at all?
- Do you think God is unfair in punishing sin?
- How did God show grace to Adam and Eve?
- How does He show grace to you?

WEEK

3

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is a big mistake that you have made recently? What happened with it?

READ 1 JOHN 1:5-9

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it say about God here?
- What is sin?
- What are we saying if we say we don't have sin?
- What does it mean to confess our sins?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it mean that there is no darkness in Him at all?
- What are ways that we act as if we don't have sin?
- What happens if we confess our sins?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it mean to walk in the light?
- What are ways that you call God a liar?
- What are ways that you are confessing your sins?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you had to admit that you did something wrong? How did it go?

READ PSALM 51

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it mean for God to have mercy on us?
- Who is our sin really against according to this psalm?
- What does the psalmist want God to do in verse 10?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why does it say that God has mercy on us?
- What does steadfast love mean?
- Do you recognize that your sin is truly against God?
- What would be the joy of your salvation?
- What are we to do in verse 13?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it look like to be washed of your sin?
- What would it look like for you to have a clean heart?
- What are ways that you are teaching other sinners God's ways?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

4

CAIN AND ABEL

CREATION

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how sin continued to affect relationships

GENESIS 4:1-16, 25-26

CONTEXT

- The Earth goes from nothing to full at God's command
- God decided to create in order to bring Glory to Himself
- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live
- God created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Adam and Eve are tempted to believe that God isn't good
- Adam and Eve choose to disobey the one command God gave them
- Their sin cuts them off from their relationship with God but He still has mercy on them and allows them to live and multiply
- Adam and Eve now have a better understanding of God's love and grace

OUTLINE

- I. **Fallen humanity is still continuing in God's call**
 - A. Adam and Eve are still being fruitful
 1. Have a son they call Cain—means "gotten from God"
 2. Have a son they call Abel—which can mean "wind" or "vain and useless"
 - B. Trusting in God's promise to them
 1. Genesis 3:15
 2. Adam and Eve's offspring will crush the enemy
 - a. They believe it will be Cain
 - i. Why some believe they called Abel useless
 - ii. No point in him being alive because Cain will make things right
 - b. God is pointing to Jesus
 - C. Their offspring is fulfilling God's call
 1. Cain—Subduing the Earth
 2. Abel—Dominion over the animals
- II. **Fallen humanity begins to worship God**

- A. Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to the Lord
 - 1. Would be as an act of worship
 - 2. God honored Abel's but not Cain's
 - a. Why is this?
 - i. Abel brought the firstborn and the fat
 - ii. Cain just brought an offering of the fruit of the ground
- B. God continues to speak to humanity
 - 1. Goes to Cain to help and warn him
 - a. Cares enough to notice him and want to help him
 - b. Knows he is upset because He favored Abel's offering
 - c. Gives hope to Cain
 - i. If you do right, will you not be accepted?
 - d. Cautions Cain
 - i. If not, sin is crouching at your door

III. Sin increases

- A. Cain kills Abel, his brother
- B. Out of jealousy and anger
- C. Ultimate disregard for an image bearer of God
- D. God's response
 - 1. Confronts Cain
 - a. Doesn't just let him get away with it
 - 2. Punishes Cain
 - a. Takes away the promise
 - i. Work will be hard and fruitless
 - b. Makes him go away on his own as a wanderer
 - 3. Still provides for Cain
 - a. Protects his life
 - b. Marks him so none will kill him

IV. God's plan and promises continue

- A. Adam and Eve have gone from two sons to no sons
 - B. God allows them to have another child–Seth, which means "appointed"
 - 1. He will be the one who carries the promise of Genesis 3:15
 - C. People begin to call on the Name of the Lord
 - 1. Seek God in worship
 - 2. Giving God glory that is due His Name
 - D. He is still filling the Earth with His glorious Kingdom
- V. SO WHAT??!!
- A. Our sinful nature leads us into actions we thought unimaginable
 - B. God warns us to keep us from sin but when we sin He punishes us as our sins deserve
 - C. God continues to provide for His people so that they will see His mercy and worship Him

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did God want from Cain and Abel?
- What do you think God wants from you? Be specific.
- What are things or people that make you jealous? Why?
- What do you like and not like about this account?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What does God want from you? Be specific.
- On a daily basis, what do you give to God?
- Are you also jealous of the stuff or attention that others get? What do you do about it?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- How would you explain faith to someone else? What is a way that you can show faith to someone else?

READ HEBREWS 11:1-4

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does verse 1 say faith is? What does that mean?
- How does verse 3 say we show our faith?
- What are we told about Abel's sacrifice?
- What did God say about Abel because of his sacrifice?
- What does it say that Abel does even though he is dead?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are things you believe in that you can't see? Why do you believe in them still?
- What is a commendation that you have received because of your faith?
- What is the sacrifice that made you righteous?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are specific ways you have lived a life of faith recently?
- What is so hard about living out your faith at school?
- How will your faith continue to speak after you are dead?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is someone in your life that loves you really well? What is it that they do to show it?

READ 1 JOHN 3:11-18

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What is the message they had heard from the beginning?
- What does it say about Cain? Why did he do what he did?
- What does John tell us not to be surprised by? Why?
- How do we know what love is?
- What should we do because Jesus died for us?
- How should we show our love to others according to verse 18?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who is someone in your life that is hard to love? Why?
- What are ways that you have felt hated by the world?
- What are ways you can lay down your life for someone else?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why could loving others make such a difference?
- Who is someone you know who does a good job of this?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

5

NOAH

CREATION

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how serious God takes sin and its punishment

GENESIS 6:6-22, 7:17-24, 8:1, 9:7-17

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live
- God created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His Glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Adam and Eve are tempted to believe that God isn't good and so disobey the one command God gave them
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer)
- Sin continues to increase and affect relationships between people but God's promised line continues through Seth

OUTLINE

- I. **Sin continues to increase**
 - A. God sees the sin of the people
 1. Every intention of the thoughts of their hearts were only evil all the time
 - a. God knows not just what we do but our hearts and thoughts as well
 - b. Earth was full of violence
 - c. All flesh was corrupted
 - i. Sin had changed it
 2. God was sorry that He made humans
 - a. Not what they were supposed to do or be
 - b. Instead of reflecting God's glory they were reflecting their sinful nature
 - c. Spreading the kingdom of sin and violence and not the Kingdom of God
- II. **God has a plan for the sin**
 - A. I will blot out man which I have created
 1. God will finally punish sin
 2. Sin deserves punishment
 - B. God will flood the Earth and thus kill all of creation

1. Humans and animals
2. Because of sin

III. God's ultimate plan still cannot be thwarted by sin

- A. Noah found favor with God
 1. Not earned by Noah but given as gift from God
 2. He was blameless in his generation
 - a. Compared to the rest of the Earth
 - b. Not perfect
 3. He walked with God
 - a. Had a relationship with God
 - b. Spent time with God
- B. God would protect Noah and allow creation to continue
 1. Tells Noah to build an ark—giant boat
 - a. He and his family would go in it
 - b. Two animals of each kind
 2. When the rains come those in the ark will be protected
 3. After the flood, God remembered Noah

IV. God makes a covenant with Noah

- A. Renews the original call of Adam and Eve
 1. Be fruitful and multiply
 2. The ultimate plan hasn't changed
 - a. Spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- B. Promises never to flood the Earth again
 1. Not because people will act better now
 - a. 8:21- "the intention of man's heart is evil from youth"
 - b. People are still sinful and yet God will forgive their sin and provide the sacrifice necessary so that people won't ultimately take full punishment for their sin
 - i. Sets up need for Jesus
 2. Gives them a sign

- a. Rainbow in the clouds
- b. God calls it His bow
 - i. Like a bow used to shoot arrows
 - ii. Notice that as a rainbow it points up rather than down
 - To show that the punishment “arrows” will go up rather than down
 - Jesus will take the punishment and wrath for our sin
- C. God blesses Noah and his offspring

V. SO WHAT??!!

- A. We are always doing and thinking about evil all the time and that sin deserves punishment
- B. God punished the Earth for its sin once but has promised to not to do it again
- C. Sin still needs payment so God is saying that He will take care of it for us
- D. God’s ultimate plan continues

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from lesson this morning?
- What was the problem going on in the Earth?
- What was God’s solution? How do you feel about that?
- How did God protect Noah?
- How did God use all this to still spread His glorious Kingdom?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What was happening on Earth and what was God’s solution?
- What does it tell us about how God looks at sin?
- How often do you think about the seriousness of your sin before God?
- What sticks out about God’s covenant to Noah and ultimately to all of us?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could have any animal as a pet what would it be and why?

READ GENESIS 7:1-24

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the Lord tell Noah to do?
- What did Noah do?
- How long did rain fall on the Earth?
- How long did the waters prevail on the land?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What would have been scary about being Noah?
- What would have been hard to obey?
- Imagine being in the boat for 190 days. What would be the hardest thing about that for you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What do you think it would have been like to be Noah in this situation?
- How does Noah show his love for God through his obedience?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you have seen God working for you?

READ GENESIS 8:1-19

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it mean that God remembered Noah?
- How long did it take for the waters to go back down?
- How did Noah find out that the waters had gone down?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time when you have felt forgotten by God?
- How long was Noah and his family in the ark? (Hint: 150 days of Earth flooded – includes the 40 days of rain–, 150 days of water going down, 40 days waiting until land dried, 30 more days of land drying)
- What would it be like to spend that much time in a boat?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time you have felt forgotten by God? How did you respond?
- How do you see God taking care of you?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

6

TOWER OF BABEL

CREATION

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God's plan continues despite man's desire to thwart it

GENESIS 11:1-9

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live
- God created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer)
- Sin continues to increase but man is unable to thwart God's ultimate plan
- God punishes the world for its sin but "recreates" it for sake of Noah and re-extends call to Noah

OUTLINE

- I. **People were working together**
 - A. Had one common language
 - B. Moved to one place—plain in land of Shinar
 - C. Had a plan
 1. Build a city and tower
 2. Tall enough to reach into heaven
- II. **Shows their true desire—to be like God**
 - A. Wanted to make a name for themselves
 1. They were called to spread God's Name and would rather spread their name
 - B. Wanted to stay where they were
 1. Didn't want to be dispersed over all the Earth
 2. Wanted to do their own thing and not obey God's commands
 - a. God had called them to fill the Earth and not just stay in one place
- III. **God's response**
 - A. God came down to see them
 1. Had to come down to see this huge city and tower that they had made

2. Knew their hearts and yet still came to them
- B. Saw the danger in what they were doing
 1. This was only the beginning
 2. He knew it would start as this but would lead to them believing that they didn't need God at all
 - a. God graciously wants to keep them from that
- C. God confuses their language
 1. They no longer can speak and understand each other
- D. God disperses them over the face of the Earth
 1. His plan cannot be thwarted by the "power" of humans

IV. SO WHAT??!

- A. We also long to make a name for ourselves instead of glorifying His Name
- B. We want to have our own plans instead of obeying God's plan for us
- C. God loves us too much to let us believe that we can do life without Him
- D. God's plan is bigger than our attempts to avoid it

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What was happening with the people? What were they trying to do? Why?
- What are ways you try and make a name for yourself?
- How did God use all this to still spread His glorious Kingdom?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What was the people's plan?
- Why did they want to build the city and tower?
- What are ways you are trying to make a name for yourself?
- What are ways you are trying to avoid God's call for you?
- How did God respond to them?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

SUNDAY TEACHING

WEEK

6

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you did something that got you praise from other people? How did that feel?

READ GENESIS 11:1-9

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did we know about the Earth at this time?
- What did the people want to do? Why?
- What did God do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you try to make a name for yourself instead of God?
- How did God respond to the people?
- What did God do to them? Why?
- When is a time God used something difficult for your good?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why is it so tempting to try and make a name for yourself?
- How does it typically work out when you try and do that?
- How does God use difficult things for your good?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could learn to speak any other language which would it be and why?

READ ACTS 2:1-13

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What day had arrived? What were the people doing?
- What came from heaven?
- What fell down on them?
- What were they filled by? What did it make them do?
- How did the people respond? Why?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How did Pentecost reverse what happened at Babel?
- How does the Holy Spirit reveal God's Truth to us?
- How did God use this for His glory?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What difference does it make that we can hear the Gospel in our own language?
- How do people respond when you talk about Jesus?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

7

CALLING OF ABRAHAM

ABRAHAM

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God calls and uses people for His purposes

GENESIS 12:1-9

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live
- God created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer)
- Sin continues to increase but is unable to thwart God's ultimate plan
- God punishes the world for its sin but "recreates" it for sake of Noah and re-extends call to Noah
- People are not fulfilling their call but are instead trying to make a name for themselves and not God while also staying instead of going

OUTLINE

- I. **Who is Abraham?**
 - A. Second most important genealogy in the Bible
 1. Behind Jesus'
 2. God will make a Name (Shem) for Himself through the line of Shem (Name) that will lead to Abraham
 - B. Was the one God had chosen to fulfill His purposes
 1. Continuation of the promise made to Adam and Eve
- II. **God's call to Abraham**
 - A. To leave his country and his people
 1. Scary and lonely
 - B. To go to the land God will show him
 1. Land where he and his descendants will live
- III. **God's first covenant with Abraham**
 - A. Promises God makes to him
 1. A name
 2. A land
 3. A people
 4. A relationship with God
 - B. Why does God make these promises?

1. A name—God will make Abraham’s name great so that he can carry God’s Name to others
2. A land—Abraham will travel far and in so doing will have the opportunity to spread God’s Name
 - a. Will go through all major trade routes and population centers at this time
3. A people—God is making a people for Himself that will spread His Kingdom on Earth
4. Relationship with God—God will be with and bless Abraham so that he can in turn bless others
5. The ultimate goal is to bless all the people on the Earth
 - a. God will bless all people through Abraham and his offspring
 - b. This promise comes to its end in Jesus who is offspring of Abraham
 - i. Blesses the whole world in defeating sin and death

IV. SO WHAT??!!

- A. As God called Abraham He has also called us
1. To be a blessing to the world
 2. To spread His Name wherever we go

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What were the promises that God made to Abraham?
- What promises does God give to us as His people?
- How can God use you to spread His Name?
- How has God blessed you so that you might be a blessing to others?
- How did God use all this to still spread His glorious Kingdom?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What was Abraham’s unique calling?
- What was the covenant God made with Abraham?
- How does that covenant apply to us?
- What are specific places God has put you to spread His Kingdom?
- How is God blessing you to bless others?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

READ GENESIS 12:1-9

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God tell Abram to do?
- What promise does He give Abram?
- What does Abram do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What would be scary about what God was asking Abram to do?
- How does Abram's obedience show His love for the Lord?
- How does your obedience show your love for the Lord?
- Where is a place that you need to obey more?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you are using your blessing to be a blessing to other people?
- What is something hard that the Lord has been calling you to do lately? Have you been obeying?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you told a lie that got found out? What happened?

READ GENESIS 12:10-20

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Why did Abram go to Egypt?
- What did Abram tell Sarai to do? Why?
- How did the Egyptians respond to Sarai?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does Abram's lie show that He wasn't trusting God?
- What happens to Sarai in Egypt?
- How did the lie benefit Abram?
- How did the lie hurt Pharaoh?
- Why do you think that Abram lied?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time that you have lied because you didn't trust God's plan?
- How do our lies hurt other people?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

8

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

ABRAHAM

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God makes promises to His people and keeps them

GENESIS 15:1-20

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live
- God created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer)
- Sin continues to increase but man is unable to thwart God's ultimate plan
- God punishes the world for its sin but "recreates" it for sake of Noah and re-extends call to Noah
- People are not fulfilling their call but are instead trying to make a name for themselves and not God while also staying instead of going
- God calls Abraham so that He might bless him to be a blessing to the nations

OUTLINE

- I. **God comes to Abraham**
 - A. Tells Abraham not to fear
 1. God is his shield
 - B. Tells Abraham that he will have a great reward
 - C. Abraham's response
 1. What will you give me?
 2. I still don't have a child
- II. **God's promise to Abraham**
 - A. You shall have a family
 1. Tells Abraham to look at the stars
 - a. Asks him to try and count them
 - b. Tells him that his offspring will be as many as that
 2. Abraham's response
 - a. He believed the Lord

- b. His faith was counted to him as righteousness
 - i. His trust in God's promises were seen as him doing the right thing continually
- B. You shall have a land
 - 1. Abraham's response
 - a. How shall I know that you give this land to me?

III. God's picture of His promise

- A. Has Abraham get some animals
 - 1. Very specific animals
 - a. Heifer, female goat and ram all three years old
 - b. Turtledove and pigeon
 - 2. Told him to cut them in half and lay them opposite of each other like making an aisle
 - 3. Abraham drove away the birds trying to eat the animals
- B. God speaks to Abraham
 - 1. This is how you will know for certain that the land shall be yours
 - 2. Predicts what will happen in the future
 - a. His offspring will live in a land not their own and be afflicted there for 400 years
 - i. Slaves in Egypt
 - b. I will bring judgment on the land
 - i. The 10 plagues
 - c. They shall come out with great possessions
 - i. Egyptians gave them treasures as they left
 - d. At that time they will come to this land
- C. God shows how certain this promise is
 - 1. Appears as a smoking fire pot and flaming torch and passed between the pieces
 - a. WHAT???!!!
 - 2. What this means
 - a. In these times men would do this when they made a promise to each other
 - b. The one who walked between the pieces was basically saying "if I don't keep this promise that I am making, may I become like these dead animals"
 - i. If I don't keep my word then I should die

- c. God is saying to Abraham that if He doesn't keep this promise that He will die
 - i. It's an absolute certainty

IV. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God made sure that Abraham knew how sure His promises were
- B. God's promises for us are yes and Amen in Jesus Christ
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 1:20

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What were the promises that God made to Abraham?
- What promises does God give to us as His people?
- What did God do for Abraham to show that He would keep His Word?
- How does God let us know that He will keep His Word?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What was the covenant God made with Abraham?
- How did God show that He will keep His Word?
- What promises does God make to us?
- How do we know He will keep His Word?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could magically make one thing happen that hasn't happened in your life what would it be and why?

READ GENESIS 16:1-16

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What was the promise that God had given Abram in chapter 15?
- What did Sarai do that showed that she didn't believe God's promise?
- How did Sarai deal with Hagar? Why?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why did Sarai have Abram take Hagar as his wife?
- How did she react when Hagar got pregnant?
- How did God take care of Hagar and Ishmael?
- What does God tell Hagar to do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does this show that Abram and Sarai thought they had to make God's promises happen for themselves?
- When is a time that you did something like this? Not really trusted that God would do what He said.
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could change your name to a different name what would it be and why?

READ GENESIS 17:1-14

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God ask Abram to do in verse 1?
- What does it mean to walk blamelessly?
- What does God say Abram will be?
- What does God change Abram's name to?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why did God call Abram to walk blamelessly before Him?
- Why is it ironic that God changes Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many"?
- What does God promise will happen to Abraham?
- What does it look like in your life that God is YOUR God?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What picture do we get from circumcision?
- What difficult thing (like circumcision) has God been calling to you do? Have you been responding?
- How does your life reflect that God is your God?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

9

SODOM AND GOMORRAH

ABRAHAM

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God listens to and protects His people

GENESIS 18:20-19:29

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer)
- Sin continues to increase but man is unable to thwart God's ultimate plan. God chooses and calls Noah and Abraham to glorify Him
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation

OUTLINE

- I. Sin continues to increase
 - A. Sodom and Gomorrah were two very wicked cities
 - B. Their evil had become so great that many had prayed to God about it
 1. The outcry against them had become very great
- II. God sends His angels to find out and He tells Abraham about His plan
 - A. To see how wicked they had become
 - B. To ultimately destroy the cities and all the people in them
 1. Sin still deserves punishment
- III. Abraham responds to God's plan
 - A. Pleads for those living in Sodom and Gomorrah
 1. Very bold to approach God like this
 2. Asks God to spare the city if 50 righteous can be found
 - a. Not just spare the righteous but also to spare the wicked people as well
 3. God agrees to spare the city if 50 righteous people are found
 - a. Shows His grace and mercy
 4. Abraham continues to plead by decreasing the number of righteous people necessary for the city to be saved

a. 45, 40, 30, 20, 10

B. At each point God promises to spare the city even to the point of doing so even if only 10 righteous live in the city

IV. The angels visit Sodom

A. They go to see what's going on

B. Lot pleads with them to stay with him for their protection

1. Don't know that they are angels

C. The men ask Lot to give the men to them

1. Lot refuses and is almost taken by the town

2. Angels blind the men and tell Lot to get his family and leave

D. Lot and family don't leave so angels take them out of the city

1. Tells them to flee and not look back

V. God punishes Sodom and Gomorrah

A. Sulfur and fire came out of heaven

B. The cities and all who were in them were destroyed

1. What their sin deserved

C. Lot's wife disobeys the angels and looks back and becomes a pillar of salt

D. God still protects all the righteous people found in Sodom

1. There were not even 10 but 4

a. Lot, his wife and his daughters

b. Shows His care for His people

E. God's treatment of sin and His grace towards Lot would be known among the people

1. Spreading His goodness

VI. SO WHAT??!!

A. Sin is a bigger deal than we give it credit for and it deserves punishment

B. God listens to the prayers of His people and uses them for His purposes

C. God protects the righteous

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What was the issue with Sodom and Gomorrah?
- What does Abraham do for them?
- Who are people you need to be praying for like this?
- How does this account show us what God thinks about sin?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What was the issue in Sodom and Gomorrah?
- How did God respond to it?
- What did Abraham do for Sodom and Gomorrah?
- Who are people in your life you need to do that for?
- What does this account show us about how God sees sin?
- How do you typically see your sin?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you prayed for someone else? What did you pray and what happened?

READ GENESIS 18:20-33

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God decide to do because of what He has heard about Sodom and Gomorrah?
- Why does He tell Abraham what He is going to do?
- What did Abraham do for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah? Why?
- How many righteous people is agreed upon for the Lord to spare the city?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why does Abraham plead for the people?
- How does he appeal to God?
- Who are the people you pray for each day? Who else needs your prayers?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are the people in your life you need to be interceding for?
- Who are the people that don't "deserve" mercy that need it from God in your life?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you can remember it snowing? What did you do and how did you feel?

READ ISAIAH 1:9-20

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did God do so that Jerusalem wasn't like Sodom and Gomorrah?
- What does Isaiah say to the rulers of Sodom and Gomorrah?
- How will God respond to the sacrifices and prayers of these people? Why?
- What will happen to our sins in verse 18? How?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it say about the seriousness of Jerusalem's sin that it was compared to Sodom and Gomorrah?
- How does it make you feel that God can make your sins as white as snow?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you go through the religious motions but don't really worship the Lord?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

10

ISAAC

ABRAHAM

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God provides for His people and calls them to trust Him

GENESIS 18:9-15, 22:1-19

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer)
- Sin continues to increase but man is unable to thwart God's ultimate plan. God chooses and calls Noah and Abraham to glorify Him
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation
- God shows Abraham how He treats sin, how He hears His people's prayers and also His willingness to grant mercy
- Abraham is still awaiting his promised son

OUTLINE

- I. God had promised a son for Abraham
 - A. Sarah heard the promise but didn't believe
 1. Instead she laughs when she hears it
 - a. Genesis 18:13-15
 2. She comes up with a different plan
 - a. Tells Abraham to have a child through Hagar
 - b. That child will be the heir God had promised
 - c. Not trusting God but trying to make God's plan happen in her own power
 - B. God continues to remind Abraham of the promise
 1. Genesis 17:15-21
 2. Genesis 18:9-15
- II. God fulfills His promise
 - A. Genesis 21:1-7
 - B. Did as He promised He would do

- C. Sarah has a son and they name him Isaac
 - 1. Means "he laughs"
 - 2. Because both Sarah and Abraham laughed at God and His promise that they would have a child in their old age
- D. Shows that God is faithful—does what He says He will do
- E. Shows that God is powerful—can make even a 100-year-old woman have a baby

III. God tests Abraham's faith

- A. Now that he has his promised son, does he still need and fear God
- B. God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac
 - 1. His SON, his ONLY son, WHOM HE LOVES
 - 2. The very one he had hoped for and longed for and that God had given him
 - 3. Is there anything in our lives more important than God?
- C. Abraham obeys the Lord's command
 - 1. Leaves the next morning and takes Isaac with him
 - 2. He builds the altar and ties Isaac to it and is about to kill him when the Lord calls to him
 - a. Abraham, do not lay a hand on the boy, for I know that you fear God
 - b. You would not withhold your son, your only son from me
 - 3. God provides the sacrifice
 - a. A ram caught in thicket by its horns
 - b. Abraham sacrificed the ram instead

IV. God renews His covenant with Abraham

- A. Reminds him what will happen
 - 1. Will be blessed
 - 2. Offspring as numerous as stars in heaven and sand on the seashore
 - 3. All nations on Earth shall be blessed

V. What does this show us about God?

- A. He is to be obeyed
 - 1. We should have nothing in our lives that means more to us than He does
- B. He is caring for His people

1. He protects Isaac
2. He is making sure that His people understand that He will never call them to sacrifice themselves or their family to please God
 - a. Many years later they will be tempted by other religions to do just this—sacrifice their children to appease foreign gods
- C. God will provide the sacrifice
 1. Abraham didn't have to sacrifice his son, his only son that he loved
 2. God does sacrifice His one and only Son whom He loves
 - a. Jesus
 3. God provides what we need to have favor with Him

VI. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God calls us to love Him more than anything else
- B. God wants us to believe and trust that He knows what is best for us
- C. God has provided the sacrifice that we need so that we can be near Him

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- How did God fulfill His promise to Abraham?
- What then did God ask Abraham to do with Isaac?
- How did Abraham respond?
- What is something God might be asking you to give up for His sake?
- How does God provide for His people?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How does God fulfill His promise to Abraham?
- What does God ask Abraham to do with Isaac?
- What is something in your life that God is asking you to sacrifice for Him?
- Do you trust God enough to do it? Why or why not?
- How does God provide for Abraham and Isaac?
- How has God provided for you?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is the last time you laughed really hard? Do you remember why?

READ GENESIS 22:1-7

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does the Lord do for Sarah?
- What name did Abraham give the baby?
- How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?
- How did Sarah respond to all this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why do you think Abraham called his son "he laughs"?
- How did God show Himself faithful to them here?
- How do you think Abraham and Sarah felt about all this?
- When is a time that you saw God answer prayer and how did you respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Is there something that you have longed for and prayed for that you just don't think God is going to do? How have you responded to that?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is something you own that would be very hard for you to give up? How would you respond if you had to?

READ GENESIS 22:1-19

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did God ask Abraham to do?
- What does Abraham do?
- How does God protect Isaac?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why would it be really hard for Abraham to obey here?
- How does obeying show that Abraham really does trust God?
- How does God honor Abraham's obedience?
- How does this show us Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What is something you are really hoping the Lord doesn't call you to do?
- How have you seen the Lord provide for you lately?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

11

JACOB

ABRAHAM

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God uses even imperfect people to spread His Kingdom

GENESIS 32:22-32

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer)
- Sin continues to increase but man is unable to thwart God's ultimate plan. God chooses and calls Noah and Abraham to glorify Him
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation
- God fulfills His promise and gives Abraham a son Isaac and then asks him to sacrifice Isaac
- Abraham is willing but God spares Isaac and God uses Isaac to fulfill His plan

OUTLINE

- I. **Isaac has twin sons**
 - A. Jacob and Esau
 1. Beginning of a rivalry
 2. Even fought with each other in the womb
 - B. Esau was born first and then Jacob
 1. Means that Esau gets all the benefits
 - a. Gets larger inheritance
 - b. Gets the father's blessing
 2. As Esau was being born Jacob was grabbing onto his heel
- II. **Jacob the schemer**
 - A. Name means "grasps by the heel" which also means "schemer"
 - B. Jacob tricks Esau out of his birthright
 1. Genesis 25:29-34
 2. Makes Esau give him the birthright for some stew because he was hungry
 - C. Jacob tricks Isaac into giving him Esau's blessing

1. Genesis 27
 2. He dresses like Esau and brings him food
- D. Esau was very angry with Jacob because of these things and threatens to kill him

III. God's dealings with Jacob

- A. Protected him through his mother
- B. Provided a home and family for him with his uncle Laban
- C. Gave him great wealth and wives and children

IV. God renames Jacob

- A. Wrestles with him
 1. Jacob refuses to let God go
 2. Wants a blessing from Him
- B. Changes his name from Jacob to Israel
 1. From "schemer" to "strives with God"
 2. Will be the name of the nation that God is creating
- C. Jacob's response
 1. He worships the Lord

V. God calls Himself by Jacob's name

- A. Refers to Himself often as "God of Jacob"
 1. Exodus 3:6, 15, 16, 4:5
 2. Psalms 20:1, 24:6, 46:7 and 11, 75:9, 76:6, 94:7, 114:7, 146:5
 3. Isaiah 2:3, 29:23
 4. Micah 4:2
 5. Matthew 22:32, Mark 12:26, Luke 20:37
 6. Acts 3:13, 7:46
- B. Expect God to refer to Himself as God of Moses or God of David or God of Noah
 1. Doesn't even call Himself by Jacob's new name
- C. Shows that God is not afraid to be associated with sinners
 1. Shows that He is a gracious God

VI. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God uses unexpected people to fulfill His purposes
- B. God shows Himself to be a God of grace and mercy
- C. God's glorious Kingdom shall be known as a place where sinners can come and be changed

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- How did Jacob live up to his name "schemer"?
- How did God show mercy to Jacob?
- How does God show that He loves and accepts Jacob?
- What are ways that God has shown you grace and mercy?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How did Jacob live up to his name "schemer"?
- What are ways that you have been a schemer in your own life?
- How did God show Jacob grace and mercy?
- How has God shown you grace and mercy?
- What does it mean that God calls Himself "God of Jacob"?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Tell of a time that you fought with a sibling or a close friend. How did it get resolved?

READ GENESIS 25:19-34

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did Isaac pray to the Lord? How did God answer?
- What is Jacob doing when he is born?
- What are we told about Esau and about Jacob?
- How does Esau trick Jacob out of his birthright?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does God tell Rebekah about the children she was carrying?
- Why would that be a little scary for her?
- Why do you think that Jacob would want the birthright?
- How does Esau respond in the end?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time that you used someone's need against them to get what you wanted?
- When is a time that you were deceived into doing something you shouldn't have or didn't want to do? How did it feel?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- List two things you want to do and two places you want to go before you die. Why those things and places?

READ GENESIS 27:1-45

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Isaac tell Esau to do?
- What does Rebekah do when she hears this?
- How does Jacob trick Isaac?
- How did Esau respond to what Jacob did?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why was the blessing so important?
- Why does Jacob do all of this?
- What happens to Esau because of what Jacob did?
- How does Rebekah protect Jacob from Esau?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time you have tried to trick your way into something?
- Who is someone that you are having a hard time loving right now? What, if anything, can be done about that?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

12

JOSEPH

SINAI

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God uses the difficult circumstances His people go through
to accomplish His purposes

GENESIS 42:1-5, 50:15-21

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer)
- Sin continues to increase but man is unable to thwart God's ultimate plan. God chooses and calls Noah and Abraham to glorify Him
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it in birth of his son Isaac
- God fulfills His promise and gives Abraham a son Isaac and then asks him to sacrifice Isaac
- God continues to use Abraham's line by working in and for Jacob showing God can truly use anyone for His glory

OUTLINE

- I. Background
 - A. Genesis 37:1-11
 - B. Jacob had 12 sons
 - C. Youngest son's name was Joseph
 1. He was Jacob's favorite
 - a. Gave him a robe of many colors
 2. The other brothers were jealous of Joseph
 - a. Hated that Jacob loved him more
 - b. Joseph had dreams from the Lord
 - i. In the dreams, his brothers would bow down to him
 - ii. Made them very mad
- II. Joseph's hard life
 - A. His brothers' jealousy—Genesis 37:18-36
 1. Wanted to kill him

2. Threw him in a pit
 3. Eventually sold him into slavery
 4. Told Jacob that he was dead
- B. Wrongful accusation—Genesis 39:2-20
1. Joseph ended up in Egypt
 2. Worked for captain of Pharaoh's guard, Potiphar
 3. Potiphar's wife lied to her husband that Joseph tried to attack her
 4. Joseph was thrown into prison
- C. Thrown into prison and "forgotten"—Genesis 39:22-40:15, 23
1. Even in prison the Lord was with Joseph
 - a. Genesis 39:21-23
 - b. Showed him steadfast love
 - c. Gave him favor in the sight of the prison keeper
 - d. Blessed him in all that he did so he became in charge of all the prisoners
 - e. Allowed him to interpret dreams for others
 - i. Cupbearer and Baker
 - ii. Told them what they meant while also giving credit to God
 - Cupbearer would get his job back
 - Baker would be killed
 2. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him
 - a. Knew he was in there for false reasons
 - b. Hoped he would get someone to help him
 - c. Cupbearer forgot about Joseph for two years
- D. The turning point—Genesis 41:37-49, 53-57
1. Pharaoh also has a dream
 - a. None of his magicians or wise men could interpret the dream
 - b. Cupbearer remembered Joseph
 2. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream
 - a. There would be seven good years and then seven years of extreme famine in all the land
 - b. Gave him a plan

- i. Appoint someone to watch over the food in the good years so there is enough left for the bad years
- c. Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge of his house and this plan
 - i. Second most powerful person in all of Egypt
 - ii. Because he was a man "in whom was the Spirit of God"

III. Joseph and his brothers—Genesis 42-46

- A. His brothers go to Egypt because there is a great famine in their land
- B. They appear before Joseph but don't recognize him
- C. Joseph tests them about how they feel about each other
 - 1. Joseph had a silver cup planted in Benjamin's (the youngest son) sack
 - 2. Punishment for stealing from Pharaoh was death
 - 3. Judah was willing to take Benjamin's place and punishment
- D. Joseph reveals himself and shows forgiveness to his brothers
- E. Joseph has them all come to Egypt to escape the famine
 - 1. Joseph gets to see Jacob again

IV. Why did all this happen?

- A. To save God's people
 - 1. Only because Joseph was in charge were the Israelites allowed to come to Egypt and share in the abundance
 - 2. Would have died in the famine otherwise
 - 3. Not just Joseph's family but all of Israel came
- B. Even the wicked acts of the brothers were used by God to accomplish His purposes
 - 1. They intended it for evil but God used it for good
 - 2. Saved God's people so that they might spread His Kingdom to Egypt and beyond

V. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God uses even hard things to accomplish His purposes
- B. God has a plan that uses all things for His will
 - 1. Even bad things done by bad people
 - 2. He can be trusted

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What were some of the hard things that happened to Joseph?
- How did God use those hard things for Joseph's good?
- How did God use those things for the good of all of God's people?
- What are some hard things that you have had to go through?
- How can God use hard things in your life?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What were some of the hard things that happened to Joseph?
- What are some hard things that have happened to you?
- Who is someone that you are jealous of, like Joseph's brothers were jealous of him?
- How do you handle your jealousy?
- How did God use Joseph's hard life for his good? For good of all of God's people?
- How have you seen God use hard things in your life for your good?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

SUNDAY TEACHING

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the best thing and the hardest thing about being the oldest, youngest, middle, only child? Answer only for which one you are.

READ GENESIS 37:1-11

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What are we told about Joseph in verses 1-4?
- How did his brothers respond to him?
- What are we told about Joseph's dreams? What did they mean?
- How did his brothers respond? His dad?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time you were very jealous of someone else? What did you do?
- How did you get past your jealousy?
- How have you been misunderstood by others? What did they do and what did you do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are things that typically make you jealous? Why?
- Who is someone that you really dislike right now? Why? What should you do about it?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you had to forgive someone else? How did it go? Were you able to truly forgive?

READ GENESIS 50:15-21

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What had happened?
- What were the brothers afraid of?
- What did the brothers say to Joseph? Was that true?
- How did Joseph respond to them?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time you got busted and were afraid of the consequences? Did you confess or make excuses?
- What did Joseph say to them in verse 20?
- How did God use all this for good?
- How have you seen God use hard things for good in your own life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How did the brothers show that they didn't really trust Joseph?
- What are ways you show that you really don't trust in God's forgiveness?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

13

CALLING OF MOSES

SINAI

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God hears His people and provides them with a deliverer

EXODUS 3:1-20

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it in birth of his son Isaac
- God continues to use Abraham's line by working in and for Jacob, showing God can truly use anyone for His glory
- God uses Joseph to save His people from a severe famine and they go to live in Egypt

OUTLINE

- I. God's people in Egypt—Exodus 1:1-22
 - A. Joseph had brought all of God's people to live in Egypt
 - B. God's people continued to multiply
 1. Grew exceedingly strong
 2. They filled the land
 - C. A new Pharaoh took the throne
 1. Did not know Joseph or what he had done to save Egypt
 2. Thought the people of Israel had become too numerous
 - a. Afraid they might revolt
 - b. Afraid they might join an enemy and thus overthrow Egypt
 3. Made them into slaves
 - a. Made them work hard—building cities
 - b. Made life very difficult for them
 - i. Would beat them
 - c. Yet the people of Israel still grew

4. Pharaoh's new plan
 - a. He instructed his soldiers to kill every baby boy that was born
 - b. Even told the Egyptian midwives to do this as well
 - i. Midwives didn't do it because they feared God

II. A deliverer is born and spared—Exodus 2:1-15

- A. Levite man and woman had a son and she hid him for three months
- B. Then she put him in a basket and put it in the Nile to protect him
- C. Pharaoh's daughter finds the baby and takes him as her own
 1. Names him Moses which means "to draw out"
 2. She calls him this because she drew him out of the Nile but he will be the one who "draws out" God's people from Egypt
- D. After Moses is grown, he sees the hardships that his people are going through
 1. Saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew
 2. Killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand so he wouldn't be found out
 3. It was found out so Moses fled Egypt
 - a. Pharaoh wanted to kill him
 - b. Moses went to Midian

III. God hears His people—Exodus 2:23-25

- A. They groaned because of their hard conditions
- B. Cried out to the Lord for help
- C. God heard their cries
 1. Remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- D. God saw the people of Israel and God knew
 1. God had already predicted this to Abraham
 - a. Genesis 15:13-14

IV. God speaks to Moses—Genesis 3:1-20

- A. Moses was out keeping his father in law's flock
 1. Just faithfully doing his job

B. God appears to Moses

1. In a bush that was on fire but didn't burn up
2. God calls Moses by name

C. God reveals Himself to Moses

1. His name
 - a. God of your father
 - b. God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
 - c. Gives him a new name for which He will be known
 - i. Yahweh—I AM WHO I AM
2. His purpose
 - a. I have seen the affliction of my people
 - b. I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of Egypt
 - c. I will take them to the land I promised Abraham
3. His power
 - a. Is going to send Moses to Pharaoh
 - b. Will be with him
 - c. Pharaoh will not let them go without being compelled by God's mighty hand
 - i. Will stretch His hand and strike Egypt with all His wonders
 - ii. 10 Plagues
 - Nile turned to blood
 - Land overrun with frogs
 - Land overrun with gnats
 - Land overrun with flies
 - All the livestock of Egypt dies
 - Boils throughout the land
 - Hail falls on Egypt
 - Locusts swarm on Egypt
 - Darkness falls on Egypt
 - Passover
 - iii. Shows God's power to Pharaoh and the Egyptians

V. God will make His name known in all the world

- A. By saving His people
- B. By defeating those who oppress His people

VI. SO WHAT?!!

- A. God hears us when we struggle and cry out to Him
- B. God answers us with His Name and His power

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What happened to God's people in Egypt?
- How did God respond to His people when they were in trouble?
- How was God with Moses?
- How do you see God's treatment of you?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How did God show His concern for Moses? His people?
- How do we see God hearing His people's concerns?
- How have you seen God hear your concerns?
- How has God answered you in your distress?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

SUNDAY TEACHING

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who outside your immediate family would you go to if you were in big trouble?

READ EXODUS 2:1-25

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- How long did Moses' mom hide him? Why?
- After that time what did she decide to do?
- How was Moses saved?
- When Moses was older what did he see and what did he do about it?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How did God protect Moses?
- How did God provide for Moses?
- Why did Moses kill the Egyptian?
- What did he do after that?
- How did God use Moses in Midian?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How often are you exposed to the injustices in the world?
- When do you see someone being oppressed? What should you do about that?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is your favorite possession? Why?

READ EXODUS 4:1-17

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What was Moses worried about?
- What did Moses have and how did God use it?
- What excuses did Moses make about why God couldn't use him?
- How did God respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does God use to help Moses?
- How does it encourage you that God uses ordinary things such as a staff and a cloak for His glory?
- What excuses do you make about why God can't use you? Why?
- Where is a place that you are just unwilling to let God work?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What ordinary things do you already have that the Lord longs to use? Will you let Him?
- When is the last time you used an excuse to get out of something God was calling you to do?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

14

PASSOVER

SINAI

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God has a plan to not only free His people
in the present but also in the future

EXODUS 12:1-32

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God uses Joseph to save His people from a severe famine and they go to live in Egypt
- While in Egypt God's people become slaves and He hears their cries and raises up Moses to deliver His people from Pharaoh

OUTLINE

- I. **God's power shown to the Egyptians**
 - A. Shows His power through the first nine plagues
 - B. Shows His power over nature and all creation
 - C. Pharaoh asks Moses for help each time but still won't let God's people go
- II. **God hardens Pharaoh's heart**
 - A. Exodus 7:13, 14, 22; 8:19; 9:7, 12, 35; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:5, 8
 - B. God doesn't allow Pharaoh to let His people go yet
 1. Still has a greater plan
 2. Wants His people to see what He has planned for the future
- III. **The 10th Plague—The Passover**
 - A. God's plan to convince Pharaoh and yet also protect His people
 1. Would require that they reset their calendar around it - 12:2
 - a. Was to be celebrated and remembered
 2. Need to prepare for it
 - a. Lambs without blemish

- b. Meal to be eaten
 - i. Sandals on and belt fastened
 - ii. Ready to go
- 3. Lambs were to be killed and their blood spread on the doorposts
- 4. When God sees the blood He would pass over that house and spare those inside
- 5. The firstborn of all Egypt will be killed
 - a. Any whose homes were not covered by the blood

B. Why the Passover?

- 1. To point to what was to come
 - a. Perfect lamb as sacrifice
 - i. Jesus as the lamb
 - ii. Lived perfect life for our sake
 - iii. Died to allow us to be forgiven
 - b. Covering of blood
 - i. We are forgiven by being covered by blood of Jesus
 - c. God's wrath is turned away
 - i. Jesus took God's wrath on the cross for us
 - d. We are called to remember and tell others

IV. God did what He said He would do

- A. Killed firstborn of Egypt
- B. Spared those with the blood on the door
- C. Freed His people
- D. Provided for them as they left
 - 1. Promised in Genesis 15:14 and Exodus 3:21-22
 - 2. Exodus 12:35-36

V. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God protects His people and frees them
- B. God shows us that His plan was to not only free His people from Egypt but to free us all from power of sin and death

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- How did God protect His own people?
- How did He keep His promise to them?
- How does the Passover show us Jesus?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How did God protect His own people?
- Why did God use the Passover to accomplish His purposes?
- How does the Passover show us Jesus?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who would you go to if you were in danger? Why?

READ EXODUS 6:1-13

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does the Lord say to Moses?
- What was the covenant that God made with the people?
- What did God hear from His people?
- What does He tell them that He will do?
- Why didn't the people listen to Moses?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why does God remember His covenant with His people?
- How has God made you part of His people?
- How should you live as one of His people?
- What things keep you from listening to the Lord? Why?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Do you believe that the Lord hears your groaning?
- What job has God given you to do that you are reluctant about? Why?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is the most famous person you have ever seen in person? How did you react?

READ EXODUS 7:1-13

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did God say that Moses and Aaron are representing?
- How would God show Himself to the Egyptians?
- What would God do to Pharaoh?
- What was the ultimate goal of all of this?—verse 5
- What were Moses and Aaron to do before Pharaoh?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that God is using you to represent Him?
- How has God shown Himself to you?
- What is the significance of Aaron's staff swallowing the other staffs?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What would others say about God by looking at your life? Why?
- How have you seen God use hard things to show others who He is?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

15

THE EXODUS

SINAI

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God leads His people out of slavery and protects them

EXODUS 12:33-42, 13:17-22, 14:5-31

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God uses Joseph to save His people from a severe famine and they go to live in Egypt
- While in Egypt God's people become slaves and He hears their cries and raises up Moses to deliver His people from Pharaoh
- God frees His people by killing the firstborn of Egypt and sparing those who put the blood of the lambs on their doorposts

OUTLINE

- I. God's people leave Egypt
 - A. Told to leave by the Egyptians who feared for their lives
 - B. Were given treasures by the Egyptians as they left
 - C. They had been in Egypt for 430 years
- II. God is helping His people
 - A. Didn't have them go through land of Philistines
 1. Shortest way
 2. Knew that if people saw war they might want to return to Egypt
 - B. Led them on their way through the wilderness

1. Pillar of cloud during the day
2. Pillar of fire at night
3. So they would know which way to go

III. Pharaoh changes his mind

- A. Decides that he wants the Israelites back
- B. Took his army to recapture them and bring them back to Egypt
- C. God's people realize it and are afraid
 1. Wonder why Moses brought them out of Egypt to die
 2. Moses tells them to fear not and stand firm
 - a. The Lord will fight for you

IV. God protects His people

- A. Pillar of fire separated Israel from the Egyptians
- B. God used Moses to part the Red Sea
 1. God's people crossed it on dry land
- C. Pharaoh and his army pursue the Israelites
 1. Go into the Sea as well
 2. God makes the water go back over the Egyptians
 - a. They all died
 - b. God had saved His people from the hand of the Egyptians

V. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God not only frees His people but stays with them and helps them
 1. He doesn't just save us but remains with us through His word and the Holy Spirit
- B. God protects His people and keeps them safe

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- How did God protect His own people?
- How did He help them as He led them out?
- How did the people respond?
- How has God helped you in your times of need?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How did God protect His own people?
- Why did God lead His people out?
- How else did God help them on their way out of Egypt?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is your favorite movie? Why?

READ EXODUS 14:5-31

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Pharaoh decide to do? Why?
- How did the people respond when they saw Pharaoh?
- What did they say to Moses?
- How did God protect His people?
- How does God defeat Pharaoh and his army?
- Why was it amazing that God's people crossed on dry ground?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time that you were tempted to not trust God like this?
- What did Moses say to the people to help them?
- What did the Egyptians say when they saw all this? What did they do anyway?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time that you have openly complained to the Lord?
- What does it mean to you that the Lord will fight for you?
- What is Israel's response to what God does?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is your favorite song right now? Why?

READ EXODUS 15:1-21

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the people do in response to what the Lord did for them?
- What did they say about God in verses 1-3?
- What did they say about God in verses 11-13?
- How would the people in the land respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What would it look like for the Lord to be your strength and your song?
- What are ways that you compare God to other people and things?
- How does God lead in verse 13? What does that mean?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you are worshipping and proclaiming Jesus?
- How would your life look different if God were truly your strength and your song?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

16

COVENANT THROUGH THE LAW

SINAI

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God gives us the Law so that we might have relationship with Him

EXODUS 19:1-25, 20:1-21, 24:1-8

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God uses Joseph to save His people from a severe famine and they go to live in Egypt
- While in Egypt God's people become slaves and He hears their cries and raises up Moses to deliver His people from Pharaoh
- God frees His people by killing the firstborn of Egypt and sparing those who put the blood of the lambs on their doorposts
- God then leads His people out of Egypt and protects them from Pharaoh and his armies by leading them through the Red Sea

OUTLINE

- I. **God's people are finally free and safe**
 - A. God has led them out of Egypt and on their way towards Promised Land
- II. **God desires for the people to know who He is**
 - A. Have lived in the midst of false gods in Egypt
 - B. Wants them to know what He expects from them as His people
 - C. God wants to show them how to fulfill their ultimate calling
 1. Spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- III. **God sets out obligations and promises for His people**
 - A. Exodus 19:1-6
 - B. You have seen what I can do as I brought you up out of Egypt
 - C. Calls them to obey His voice and keep His covenant
 1. They shall be His treasured possession among all peoples
 2. They shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation

3. Will be used by Him so others may know Him

IV. Reminder of God's Holiness

- A. Exodus 19:7-25
- B. The people were warned about God's holiness
 1. Told not to touch the mountain or they would die
 2. People called to consecrate themselves
 - a. Make themselves holy to go before the Lord
- C. God shows up
 1. Mountain was wrapped in smoke
 2. God answers in thunder

V. God reminds them who He is and what He has done

- A. I am the Lord YOUR God
 1. He is their God
- B. Who brought you up out of slavery in Egypt
 1. He was the one who freed them
- C. They needed to be reminded of this before He gives them the Law
 1. Know that God is with them and for them
 2. Know that He is good for His people

VI. God gives them the Law

- A. How He expects them to live as His people
 1. Their lives are to look different from other people
 2. Show His goodness to all the nations
- B. Gives them the 10 Commandments through Moses on the mountain
 1. No gods before me
 2. Do not worship things you create
 3. Do not take the Lord's Name in vain
 4. Keep the Sabbath day holy
 5. Honor your Father and Mother
 6. Do not murder
 7. Do not commit adultery
 8. Do not steal

9. Do not bear false witness against your neighbor
10. Do not covet what your neighbor has
- C. We don't obey the Law because we forget why God created the Law
 1. God is our rightful King
 - a. Made, owns and rules everything
 2. God has saved us
 - a. We owe our lives and being to Him
 3. God gives us the Law to protect us
 - a. Like a fence around a playground beside a busy street

VII. How can we see what God's Law is trying to protect us from?

- A. Restating the 10 Commandments in such a way that we can see God's heart in them
 1. 1st- You will only lead yourself into frustration by trusting anything but me
 2. 2nd- It is easy to get caught up in man made things but they will not satisfy so don't give them your heart
 3. 3rd- Make sure that people consistently hear about My goodness so they will want to know ME
 4. 4th- Your bodies need a day of rest so I am giving you one so take advantage of and thank Me for it
 5. 5th- Show love for those who I have given you that take care of you
 6. 6th- Value life since it is a gift from Me and don't destroy those who are made in my image because they are valuable to Me
 7. 7th- Value marriage as a symbol and picture of My love for you

8. 8th- Value the things that other people have because I have given to them and trust that I will give you what you need
9. 9th- Value other people and their ability to be a witness for Me so don't tell other people lies about them
10. 10th- Let yourself be content and thankful for what you have because someone else will always have something "better" but I know best what you need

VIII. The people are called to obey and sacrifice

- A. Exodus 24:1-8
- B. The people made burnt offerings and peace offerings
- C. Moses put blood on the altar and on the people
 1. To consecrate them
 2. As an example of God's covenant with His people
- D. Moses then read the book of the Covenant to all the people

IX. The relationship is now set

- A. Exodus 19:5-6
- B. If they obey God's commands, God will be with them and use them to bring Him glory

X. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God desires us to have relationship with Him
- B. God wants us to understand what our responsibilities are as His people
 1. Our call is to trust God and obey

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- How did God show the people how to have a relationship with Him?
- What are the purposes of the commandments?
- How do you typically see God? (Ex. Ruthless tyrant, Powerless grandfather, Generous king, etc.) Why?
- How do you typically see God's Law? Why?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What is the point of God's Law for His people?
- Which of the 10 Commandments is hardest for you to keep? Why?
- What are specific ways you are living out God's Law daily?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What are some of the “unwritten” rules of your house?

READ EXODUS 19:1-25

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where does Moses go? What did God say to him there?
- What does God call His people in verses 5 and 6?
- What did God say about touching the mountain? Why?
- How does this proclaim God’s glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you are obeying the Lord’s voice?
- What are ways you are not listening or are disobeying?
- What does it mean to you that God calls you His treasured possession?
- How did God come to meet the people?
- How does God come to meet you?
- How does this proclaim God’s glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it mean that we are a kingdom of priests and a holy nation?
- How are you living out those identities?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God’s glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What punishments are easiest for you to endure and hardest for you to endure? Why?

READ EXODUS 20:1-21

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God tell His people not to do in verses 3 and 4?
- Why did God tell them not to do this?
- How did the people respond to God's Presence?
- Why was God making them afraid?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it mean that God is a jealous God?
- As you go through the 10 Commandments, which are easiest for you and which are hardest? Why?
- How would seeing God for who He is make us not want sin?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are some idols that you are currently worshipping?
- As you go through the 10 Commandments, which are easiest for you and which are hardest? Why?
- Describe in one or two words how you currently see God. How does that affect your life?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

17

THE PEOPLE BREAK THE COVENANT

SINAI

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God responds to His people when they disobey His commands

EXODUS 32:1-35, 34:1-10

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- While in Egypt God's people become slaves and He hears their cries and raises up Moses to deliver His people from Pharaoh
- God frees His people by killing the firstborn of Egypt and sparing those who put the blood of the lambs on their doorposts
- God then leads His people out of Egypt and protects them from Pharaoh and his armies by leading them through the Red Sea
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him

OUTLINE

- I. **God's people have agreed to obey God's law**
 - A. Made a Covenant with Him
- II. **The people grow impatient**
 - A. Exodus 32:1-6
 - B. Moses was still on the mountain with God
 - C. The people decide to make gods for themselves
 1. Direct disobedience to the 1st two commandments
 2. They take off their jewelry and melt it down
 3. Form a calf made out of gold
 4. They worshiped the calf
 - a. Built an altar for it
 - b. Made sacrifices to it

- c. Called it the god who brought them up out of Egypt

III. God's Covenantal Response

- A. Exodus 32:7-10
- B. If they disobeyed God's commands they would no longer be His people
- C. God tells Moses to go down to them
 - 1. Knew what they had done
 - 2. Tells Moses what had happened
- D. God tells Moses what He is going to do
 - 1. He will pour out His wrath on them
 - 2. He will keep Moses alone alive and make a great nation out of him

IV. Moses pleads to the Lord for the people

- A. Exodus 32:11-14
- B. Tells Him what the nations would say about Him
 - 1. He brought His people out of Egypt just to kill them
 - 2. He has evil intent for His people
- C. Reminds God of His promise to Abraham
 - 1. That they will have offspring that will multiply and inherit the Earth
- D. God already knew and was already planning to show them mercy
 - 1. He does not pour His wrath out on them even though they deserve it

V. Moses shows the people their sin

- A. Exodus 32:15-29
- B. Moses comes down the mountain with the written Law
- C. Moses' anger burned hot
 - 1. He is angry over the sin of the people
 - 2. He breaks the tablets
 - 3. Took the calf and burned it and ground into powder and made the people drink it
 - 4. He confronts Aaron for his role in all of this

- D. Many of the people die because of their sin
 - 1. Moses gets the Levites to get their swords
 - 2. Kills those who do not repent of their sin

VI. Moses intercedes for the people before the Lord

- A. Exodus 32:30-35
- B. Moses goes before the Lord to make atonement for the sin of the people
 - 1. Asks God to forgive them for what they have done
 - 2. Moses offers himself to be punished the same as the rest of the people
 - a. Even though he did not participate in their sin
- C. God's response
 - 1. Will not forsake all the people
 - 2. Will remain with them
 - 3. Sends a plague on the people who sinned

VII. The Covenant is restored

- A. Exodus 34:1-10
- B. Moses makes two more tablets of stone and God puts the Law on them
- C. God tells Moses about Himself
 - 1. He is merciful and gracious
 - 2. Slow to anger
 - 3. Abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness
 - a. Covenant love

- i. Not because of what they do but who they are
- 4. Forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin
- 5. But will punish the wicked
- 6. Moses' response is worship
- 7. How He will be known by the nations
- D. Moses asks God to go with them
- E. God promises to do amazing things for them and before them
 - 1. Marvels that have never been seen
 - 2. All the people you live among will see them
 - 3. Will help to spread His glorious Kingdom

VIII. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God desires our obedience
- B. God also forgives the sins of His people when they repent
- C. God continues to keep His covenant even when we don't
 - 1. Shows His people grace and mercy
- D. We are called to also intercede for people to God

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What do the people do? Why?
- How does God respond to them?
- What did Moses do for the people?
- How have you also broken God's covenant?
- How has God treated you?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What did the people do? Why?
- How did God respond to their sin?
- What did Moses do for the people?
- Who are people you should be interceding for before God?
- How have you also broken God's commands?
- How has the Lord treated you?
- What does it mean to you that God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that someone really stuck up for you and helped you when you needed it? How did it feel?

READ EXODUS 33:12-23

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Moses ask of the Lord in verse 12?
- What does Moses want God to do in verse 13?
- What made God's people different from all the other people?
- What does Moses ask God to do in verse 18?
- Why can't Moses see God's glory?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What difference does God being with you make in your daily life?
- How has God shown you His ways?
- How does God show Himself to Moses while also protecting him?
- How have you seen God's glory?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How important is God's Presence to you? Why?
- How do you live differently than everyone else because of Jesus?
- How does seeing God encourage you to live more for Him?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is your favorite book? Why?

READ EXODUS 34:1-9

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God tell Moses to do?
- What will God write on the tablets?
- What does God say about Himself in verses 6 and 7? What do those things mean?
- How did Moses react to this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Where can you find God's written Word today?
- How is God slow to anger? Are you slow to anger? Why or why not?
- How does God abound in steadfast love?
- What are ways you are worshipping God?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What difference does God's mercy and forgiveness make in you everyday life?
- What difference does His steadfast love make?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

18

THE TABERNACLE

SINAI

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God lives among His people as their God

EXODUS 35:10-11, 35:30-36:2, 40:16-38

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God frees His people by killing the firstborn of Egypt and sparing those who put the blood of the lambs on their doorposts and leads His people out of Egypt towards the Promised Land
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- The people break God's commands and are punished but God continues to keep His promises to the people
- God again gives them the Law and now promises His presence to be with His people

OUTLINE

- I. What was the Tabernacle?
 - A. Was where the people would go to worship the Lord
 - B. A building where God's Presence would reside
 1. About 45 feet long by 15 feet wide by 15 feet high
 2. Made of wood covered in gold with roof of cloth and animal skins
 3. Had 3 parts to it
 - a. Courtyard—right outside the Tabernacle
 - i. Where people would gather to bring their sacrifices
 - ii. No one besides the priests were allowed inside the Tabernacle building
 - b. The Holy Place
 - i. Inside the building
 - ii. Where the priests worked
 - c. The Holy of Holies
 - i. Separated from the Holy Place by a large veil
 - ii. Where the Ark of the Covenant was
 - On the Ark was the mercy seat where the High Priest would sit and make intercession for the people

- iii. Only the High Priest was allowed in here and only on the Day of Atonement
- iv. Separated God from the people for their protection
- C. Was to be a constant reminder of God's Presence with them and His Holiness among them
- D. Had to be movable since the people were still on their way to the Promised Land
 - 1. Was able to be taken up and replaced when the people moved
 - 2. Was not meant to be a permanent structure
- E. Was a picture of what was to come
 - 1. The Temple
- II. Moses asks the people to provide for the Tabernacle—Exodus 35:4-29**
 - A. Out of their possessions
 - 1. Give of what they took out of Egypt
 - a. That the Lord gave them
 - b. Like we do when we tithe
 - c. Give back to the Lord from what He has given us
 - 2. Gold, silver, bronze, wood, fine linens, oil spices, etc.
 - 3. For the purposes of worship
 - a. For Tabernacle, priests and the worship pieces
 - B. Out of their skills
 - 1. Use their abilities to make what is needed
 - 2. Used them all since they had different gifts
 - 3. How God does with His church today
 - a. Has uniquely gifted us
 - b. Uses our gifts for His Kingdom and the good of all people
 - C. Done with a willing heart
 - 1. Not out of guilt or fear
 - 2. Those that the Spirit moved
 - D. The people listen and respond by bringing what they have and what they could do to be a part of this
- III. The Tabernacle is completed—Exodus 40:1-33**
 - A. They set it up and anoint with oil all that is in it
 - 1. Setting it apart as Holy
 - 2. So it can be used for worship

- B. They wash and anoint those who will serve as priests
- C. Moses did all the Lord had commanded in regards to the Tabernacle

IV. God shows up—Exodus 40:34-38

- A. Cloud covered and filled the Tabernacle
- B. Moses was not even able to enter it
- C. The cloud became the people's way of knowing what God was calling them to do
 - 1. When the cloud rose up out of the Tabernacle, the people would get ready and follow the cloud to the next place
 - 2. If the cloud stayed in the Tabernacle the people stayed where they were
 - 3. Cloud by day and fire by night
 - a. Just like how the Lord led them out of Egypt
 - b. All the houses of Israel could see it
 - c. If people were doubting easy to remind them, just point them to the cloud or fire

V. SO WHAT?!! - Why is the Tabernacle important?

- A. Was a visible reminder of God's Presence with His people
 - 1. He will be their God and they will be His people
- B. Was showing them what was to come
 - 1. The Temple
 - a. God gets a permanent address
 - b. Where all people could come and worship and know Him
 - 2. Jesus
 - a. John 1:14- the Word became flesh and **tabernacled** among us
 - b. He was the ultimate example of God being with us—Emmanuel
 - c. He is the One who can bring us close to God
 - i. As He dies the veil concealing the Holy of Holies was torn in two— Matthew 27:51
 - ii. We now have access directly to the Father because of what Jesus did for us— Hebrews 6:7-12, 10:19-20
- C. We too are called to give of our possessions and our skills in order to bring glory to the Lord
- D. God promises to be with us always through His Holy Spirit

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did God ask the people to make?
- What would it take from them to make it?
- What happened when they finished it?
- How does it show us Jesus?
- How is God always with you and what difference does that make?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What was the Tabernacle?
- How did the people use it to worship God?
- What did they have to give to make it happen?
- What is God calling you to give so that you might glorify Him?
- How did God show His Presence among them?
- How does God show you that He is with you?
- What difference does it make in your life that God is always with you?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is something you built or made that you are really proud of? Why?

READ EXODUS 26:1-37

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God tell them to make?
- How many different colors does God tell them to use?
- How many different animal furs does He tell them to use?
- What different metals and woods does He tell them to use?
- What goes in the Tabernacle? Why?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it tell us about God when we see how specific He wanted the Tabernacle?
- Why do you think God was so exact in His instructions for their worship?
- How does this apply to us today?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What was the purpose for the Tabernacle?
- What has taken its place for us today?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the worst storm that you ever remember? How did you react?

READ EXODUS 40:34-38

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened to the tent of meeting?
- What was in the cloud?
- What effect did the cloud have on Moses?
- What did the cloud do for them?
- Who could see the cloud?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Where else have we seen a cloud lately? What does this tell us about them?
- How did God use the cloud to help them?
- Why was it important that all of Israel could see the cloud or the fire?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What is God using in your life to show you His will like the cloud did for these people?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

19

WANDERING IN THE DESERT

SINAI

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God lives among His people as their God

NUMBERS 13-14

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God frees His people by killing the firstborn of Egypt and sparing those who put the blood of the lambs on their doorposts and leads His people out of Egypt towards the Promised Land
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- The people break God's commands and are punished but God continues to keep His promises to the people

OUTLINE

- I. **God is ready to fulfill promise He made to Abraham**
 - A. Give His people a land
 - B. Lead them in to drive the people out
 - C. God had been providing for them
 1. Food and water
 - D. God was living among them
 1. In the Tabernacle
- II. **God's plan**
 - A. Send in spies to the land—Numbers 13:1-20
 - B. Purpose was to encourage the people who had not been used to battle
 1. Help them have confidence and courage to fulfill God's call
 - C. Send in those who were leaders of the people so the people would follow them
 - D. God's instruction to them
 1. Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I AM GIVING TO PEOPLE OF ISRAEL
 2. Letting them know that the battle is already won because God is with them

III. Report of the spies–Numbers 13:25-33

- A. The spies return and tell the people what they saw
 - 1. Land was a good land–has abundance of good things
 - 2. BUT... cities are large and fortified and people are like giants
 - a. WE are grasshoppers compared to them
 - 3. Instead of courage the people were afraid
- B. One of the spies saw things differently–Caleb
 - 1. Quieted the crowd who was scared
 - 2. Told them they could overcome the land and the people
 - 3. Trusted that the Lord would be with them
 - a. They were not alone
 - b. God promised them to take hold of the land

IV. Response of the People–Numbers 14:1-10

- A. They all cried in a loud voice and wept that night out of fear
 - 1. Better to have died in Egypt so let's go back there
- B. Caleb, Joshua and Moses remind them what the Lord has done and can do
 - 1. Lord will give it to us
 - 2. Do not fear the people, their protection is removed from them
- C. The people wanted to kill Caleb, Joshua and Moses
 - 1. The glory of the Lord shows up and saves them

V. God's Response

- A. Numbers 14:11-20
 - 1. "How long will they not believe despite the signs I have done for them?"
 - 2. God is ready to start over with Moses but Moses intercedes for the people
 - 3. God pardons the people but there will be consequences
- B. Numbers 14:21-38
 - 1. God will judge the sin of His people who refused to trust Him
 - a. Because the Earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord
 - b. Needs to purify His witness on the Earth

2. The punishment
 - a. Any who saw God's wonders and signs coming out of Egypt and disobeyed will not see the Promised Land
 - i. All those 20 years old or older would die in the wilderness
 - b. God's people will be forced to wander in the desert for 40 years
 - i. One year for every day they spent spying out the land
 - c. The spies who returned with the bad report died by plague

VI. People's response to God's judgment- Numbers 14:39-45

- A. The people mourned greatly at hearing these words
 1. Realize their sin
- B. Decide to go and take the land now
 1. Hopeful that will turn away their punishment
- C. Moses warns them not to
 1. Lord is not with you
 2. You will be defeated
- D. The people go anyway
 1. Without Moses or the Ark
 2. Are defeated in battle

VII. Even in punishment God is with His people

- A. Takes care of them daily
 1. Manna, quail and water
- B. Protects them from danger
 1. Numbers 21
 - a. Israelites were being bitten by snakes and killed
 - b. Gave them a bronze serpent so if they got bit and looked at it they wouldn't die
- C. Their clothes and sandals didn't wear out
 1. Deuteronomy 29:5
 2. Lasted for 40 years

VIII. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God calls us to trust Him even when it seems impossible
- B. God promises to go with us and help us
- C. Even when we disobey, God still protects and cares for His people

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from lesson this morning?
- What are ways that you still doubt the Lord even though He has constantly provided for you?
- How did God's people forget what the Lord had done for them?
- How did God still take care of His rebellious people?
- How does God still take care of you even in your disobedience?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What has called you to do that you are afraid to do?
- What are ways that you still doubt the Lord even though He has constantly provided for you?
- Do you trust that the Lord is with you and has a good plan for you?
- Do you try and take matters into your own hands when it seems God isn't doing what you want Him to?
- How do you see God still advancing His Glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could only eat one food forever what would it be? Why do you enjoy it so much?

READ MATTHEW 25:31-46

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the people start to do in verse 2?
- What does it mean to grumble? Show everyone what it looks like.
- What did they say to them? Why is what they are saying silly?
- What did God provide for the people even though they complained?
- What were they supposed to do with it? Did they obey?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time that you were not very grateful for something someone else or the Lord did for you? Why?
- How does God treat you even when you are ungrateful?
- How do you treat people who are ungrateful to you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What is something you have been complaining about a lot lately?
- Who are you blaming right now for the difficulties in your life? Why?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you remember being really sick? Who helped you the most when you felt the worst?

READ NUMBERS 21:4-9

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What was happening to God's people?
- How were they complaining against God?
- What did God send their way?
- What happened to the people who were bitten?
- How does God save His people?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why do you think God kept putting up with all their complaining?
- Was sending the serpents a fair or unfair thing? Why?
- What does God tell the people to do in verse 7?
- How has God saved you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What things do you most often grumble about when it comes to God?
- When is the last time you prayed and confessed your sin to the Lord?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

20

COVENANT RENEWAL

SINAI

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God calls His people to obedience

DEUTERONOMY 29:1-29, 30:1-20

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God frees His people by killing the firstborn of Egypt and sparing those who put the blood of the lambs on their doorposts and leads His people out of Egypt towards the Promised Land
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God tells them to take the Promised Land but they refuse to out of fear and the Lord punished them by having them wander in the wilderness for 40 years

OUTLINE

- I. God has Moses call all the people together—Deuteronomy 29:1-29
 - A. The 40 years of wandering is now complete
 - B. Reminds them what God had done for His people
 1. Brought them up out of Egypt
 2. Took care of them for last 40 years in the wilderness
 - C. Tells them why they are there now
 1. God is making a covenant with them
 - a. He will be their God
 - b. They will be His people
 - c. As He had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
 - D. Warns them of false worship
 1. Remember the things you saw in Egypt
 - a. Idols of wood, stone, silver and gold
 2. Need to not let hearts be turned to the gods of the nations

- a. Those already living in the Promised land
- b. Know that it will be a temptation for them
- c. God will pour out His wrath on those who serve other gods
 - i. Like He did on Sodom and Gomorrah

II. God tells them what will happen in the future–Deuteronomy 30:1-10

- A. He knows that they will seek after the gods of the land
 - 1. Because of this they will be driven out among the nations–Exile
 - a. Verse 1–among the nations the Lord has driven you
 - b. Verse 3–from all the people where the Lord your God has scattered you
- B. God gives them hope in the midst of it
 - 1. Even in exile they can return to Him–verse 2
 - 2. God will gather them again from the nations–verse 3
 - 3. They will return to this land that God had promised them
 - 4. God will make them prosperous
 - a. As they obey the Book of the Law
 - b. Turn to the Lord with all your heart and soul

III. God gives the people a choice–Deuteronomy 30:11-20

- A. God lets them know His commands are not too much
 - 1. Not impossible for them to keep
 - 2. He gives them His Word
 - a. Will be near them
 - b. Will be in their mouths and hearts
- B. Life or death
 - 1. Life–obey what the Lord has commanded
 - a. Shows that we love God
 - b. Will come with blessings
 - 2. Death–worshipping other gods
 - a. Will not live long in the land
 - b. Shows that we don't truly love God

- C. They must choose what they will do and who they will worship before they enter the Promised Land

IV. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God continues to show grace to His people
- B. God makes it clear what our call is—to obey Him
- C. God lets them know the consequences of their choices

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What does God remind the people of?
- What does God call the people to?
- What do you need to be reminded of when it comes to God?
- What is God calling you to?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What has God done for the people? What has He done for you?
- What was God calling the people to do?
- What is God calling you to do?
- What are the consequences of not obeying God?
- Why is it so hard to do what the Lord wants us to?
- What is one thing you are having an especially hard time obeying right now? Why?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you made a promise to someone else? Did you keep it? Why or why not?

READ DEUTERONOMY 29:1-15

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What is a covenant?
- What did Moses remind the people of about God?
- How had God taken care of His people in the wilderness?—verse 5
- What does Moses tell the people to do in verse 9?
- What is God doing here?—verse 13
- Who is He making this covenant with?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why is it so important to remember what the Lord has done for us?
- How is God sustaining you right now?
- What promise accompanies their obedience?
- How does the covenant apply to us as well?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- In what ways have you seen God's provision for you?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you really messed up that you always remember even when you try to forget?

READ JEREMIAH 31:31-34

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jeremiah say will be coming?
- Is this the same as the covenant we read about last time?
- What will God put within His people?
- What does God say about His relationship with the people?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that God's Law is in your life?
- What promise does He make in verse 34?
- What does it mean to you that God "remembers your sin no more"?
- How are you making more people know God?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How has God written His Law on your heart?
- What does it mean to you that God "remembers your sin no more"?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

21

"CONQUEST" OF THE PROMISED LAND

SINAI

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God cares about the hearts of His people and their worship

DEUTERONOMY 7:1-5, JOSHUA 6-7, JUDGES 1:27-36

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God frees His people by killing the firstborn of Egypt and sparing those who put the blood of the lambs on their doorposts and leads His people out of Egypt towards the Promised Land
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God tells them to take the Promised Land but they refuse to out of fear and the Lord punished them by having them wander in the wilderness for 40 years
- God still takes care of His people in the wilderness and the promise of a land still remains for the people

OUTLINE

- I. God's commands for the Promised Land
 - A. It is now time for the wandering to cease (the 40 years are now up) and for the people to enter into the land
 - B. God gives them very specific instructions for what they are to do once they enter in
 - C. Numbers 33:50-56
 1. Drive out ALL the inhabitants of the land that you enter
 2. Destroy all their false worship
 - a. Idols—stone figures and metal images
 - b. Altars—high places
 3. For their protection
 - a. If you don't, those who remain will hurt you
 - i. Barbs in your eyes
 - Imagine getting stuck in the eye with a barbed wire fence
 - ii. Thorns in your sides
 - iii. God will treat you the same as He does them

D. Deuteronomy 7:1-5

1. God will help them drive out the nations
 - a. Nations that are larger and mightier than they are
2. When you defeat them devote them to complete destruction
 - a. Kill them all and destroy all their stuff
 - b. No deals with them, don't keep them around to marry your children
 - i. If they do your children will be turned away from Me to follow false gods
 - c. No mercy for them—they are dangerous for your souls

E. This seems kind of extreme, why does God care so much?

1. Deuteronomy 7:6-11
 - a. They are His treasured possession
 - b. God loves them and they belong to Him
 - c. They are to be a holy people so they can show God to others—spread His Kingdom
 - d. If they keep the people around they will be led to worship false gods
 - e. If they keep their stuff then they will trust more in their possessions than they will in God and His provision for them

F. God's promise to them

1. Deuteronomy 7:21-26
 - a. God will be with them
 - i. Do not need to be afraid of the people
 - b. He will drive out the nations before them
 - c. Devote to destruction all they have
 - d. Blot out the names of their gods so that God's Name can become greater

II. Battles in the Promised Land

A. Battle #1- Jericho- Joshua 6:1-21

1. Jericho was a great city and was surrounded by a large wall
2. One of the oldest cities ever discovered
3. God's plan to give them the city
 - a. March around the city once a day for 6 days
 - i. Blowing trumpets and carrying the Ark of the Covenant (the box that contained the tablets of the Law)
 - ii. On the 7th day they will march around the city as before except do it seven times and at the end of that time to shout and blow the trumpets and the walls will fall down

- b. Would look really silly to do
- c. Was done this way to ensure that God would get the glory for the walls coming down
 - i. Not because of Israel's great might or military strategy
- 4. The people do what God requires and they capture the city
- 5. They then devote everything to destruction just as the Lord commanded

B. Battle #2- Ai- Joshua 7:1-9

- 1. Ai was a much smaller city with fewer people
 - a. Joshua decides to only send a few to fight
 - b. Believes it will be like Jericho
- 2. God's people were defeated and some were killed in battle
 - a. They retreat back to camp confused
 - b. Hadn't God promised us victory?
 - c. Hearts of the people melted—were scared again
- 3. Joshua pleads to the Lord
 - a. Tears his clothes and falls face down on the Earth
 - i. Show of humility
 - b. Asks why this has happened
 - c. Fears that they will be defeated
 - d. Appeals to God's Name
 - i. If we are defeated, what will you do for your great Name?
 - ii. How will You spread Your kingdom if we are all dead?
- 4. God reveals the problem
 - a. One of the people—Achan—had taken some of the things that were supposed to be devoted to destruction and kept them for himself
 - b. Because he did this all of Israel would suffer
 - c. They had to devote Achan and his family to destruction
 - i. God takes sin very seriously
 - d. The people took Achan, what he kept and his family and livestock and killed them all
- 5. The people then defeated Ai and obeyed the Lord's commands

III. SO WHAT??!

- A. God cares deeply about His people and their hearts
- B. God desires for us to worship Him alone and to not be tempted to worship the gods of this world
- C. We need to devote to destruction the things in our lives that seek to turn us away from God

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did God tell the people to do when they entered the Promised Land? Why?
- How did God show His power in the battle of Jericho?
- How have you seen God's power in your own life?
- How seriously does God take sin? Do you? Why or why not?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What did God tell the people to do when they entered the Promised Land?
- Why did God tell them to do this?
- How did God show His power in these passages?
- How was God protecting His people the whole way?
- How did God react when the people disobeyed?
- How do you react when you sin against God?
- What in your life do you need to devote to destruction to keep you from sinning?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Where is your favorite place to go on vacation? Why?

READ JOSHUA 23:1-16

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What had the Lord given His people?
- What does Joshua do?
- What does Joshua remind them about the Lord in verses 3-5?
- What does he tell them to do in verses 6-8?
- What warnings does Joshua give them in verses 11-13?
- What pictures does he give them for what the people of the land will be like for them?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you have seen the Lord fight for you?
- How well are you keeping what is written in God's Word?
- What are ways that you are loving God and protecting yourself from idols?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why do you think obedience is so important to the Lord?
- What would it look like to truly cling to the Lord?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you faced a difficult decision? How did you ultimately decide what to do?

READ JOSHUA 24:14-28

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What choice does Joshua give the people that day?
- What does he say he will do?
- How did the people respond?
- What does Joshua say to that?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from the warnings that Joshua gives the people?
- How are you tempted to serve the gods of this world? What are some of them?
- How can you keep from serving those gods?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What would it look like to serve the Lord in sincerity?
- How have you seen God to be Holy? Faithful? Jealous?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

22

EFFECTS OF THE "CONQUEST"

SINAI

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how the people's disobedience affected their whole lives

JUDGES 1:27-2:15, 10:6-18

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God frees His people by killing the firstborn of Egypt and sparing those who put the blood of the lambs on their doorposts and leads His people out of Egypt towards the Promised Land
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God tells them to take the Promised Land but they refuse to out of fear and the Lord punished them by having them wander in the wilderness for 40 years but God still takes care of them
- After the 40 years, God sends them into the Promised Land with His Presence and specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- God's people fail their first test and they are punished but God remains with them

OUTLINE

- I. The people continue their "conquest"
 - A. Judges 1:27-2:5
 1. Each of the tribes did not drive out the people among them
 2. They instead made them serve as forced labor
 3. Disobeyed what the Lord had commanded
 4. God confronts them about their sin
 - a. I brought you up out of Egypt
 - b. I made a covenant with you that I won't break
 - c. Now I will not drive them out before you
 - i. The people wept over these words
 - ii. Sacrificed to the Lord
 5. God knows what will happen next because of their disobedience

II. Joshua dies and leaves Israel without a leader

A. Judges 2:6-15

1. Israel served the Lord while Joshua was around
2. Once Joshua dies a new generation of God's people arises
 - a. Did not know the Lord
 - b. Did not know the work the Lord had done
3. The result of this new generation
 - a. People of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord
 - i. Started to worship other gods
 - ii. Abandoned God that brought them up out of Egypt
 - b. Provoked the Lord to anger
 - i. Gave them over to plunderers who took their possessions
 - ii. Sold them into the hand of their enemies
 - iii. Hand of the Lord was against them in battle
 - iv. As the Lord had warned them and sworn to them

III. God raises up leaders for the people

A. Judges 10:6-18

1. The people once again did evil and served other gods
 - a. Was a consistent pattern for God's people
2. The people cried out to the Lord for help
 - a. Admitted their sin to the Lord
3. God's response
 - a. I saved you from your enemies in the past
 - b. You have continually forsaken Me and served other gods
 - c. I will save you no more
 - i. Let the gods you worship now come and save you
 - d. The people say that God can do whatever He wants to do just please save them
 - i. Put away foreign gods and served the Lord
4. God's help for His people
 - a. He became impatient over their misery
 - i. Could bear their suffering no longer
 - b. God gave them leaders to help

- i. Judges
 - ii. Were used by God to deliver His people from their enemies
- B. Cycle of the book of Judges
 - 1. Happens over and over again with each new generation
 - a. Israel disobeys the Lord's commands
 - b. They become like the people around them
 - i. Serve their gods
 - c. They become oppressed by their enemies
 - d. Israel cries out to the Lord
 - e. God raises up a judge to deliver them
 - f. All is fine until the judge dies and it all starts over
 - i. Israel is fine when they have a judge to lead them but quickly fall away

IV. How this era of Israel's history ends?

- A. Judges 21:25
 - 1. In those days there was no king
 - a. They have no one to lead them
 - b. They are not trusting God as their king
 - 2. Everyone did what was right in their own eyes
 - a. No one did what the Lord had commanded them
 - b. People decide for themselves right and wrong

V. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God gives His people over to their sin
 - 1. Warned them over and over again and told them what would happen
 - 2. Allows them to be given over to their enemies
- B. God raises up leaders to help His people
 - 1. Continues to show them grace even when they fall back into sin

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What happens when Israel loses their leader?
- What happens when people turn away from God?
- How does God keep helping His people?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What happened to God's people when they lost their leader?
- How did God respond to Israel's idolatry?
- How does God help His people in their distress?
- How had God shown you forgiveness?
- How have you seen God help you in your distress?
- Who has God put in your life that helps you know and worship God more?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time recently that you got really angry? Why did you and how did it get resolved?

READ JUDGES 2:11-3:6

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did God's people do?
- How did God respond to their sin? Why?
- How did the people respond to the judges?
- Why did the Lord keep helping them?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it mean that they provoked the Lord to anger? What are ways that we do that?
- How did God help His people even in the midst of judgment?
- How did the people respond when a judge died?
- How was God testing Israel? How does He test you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you have abandoned the Lord?
- Who has God placed in your life to help you that you just aren't listening to? Why?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is your favorite super hero? Why?

READ JUDGES 7:1-25

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who was the enemy of God's people at this time? Who had He raised up to help the people?
- What does God tell Gideon?
- How did they lessen the number of people?
- How many were left to fight?
- How does God use them to defeat Midian?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why did God want to use less people to defeat Midian?
- How would you have felt if you were one of the 300 going up against the entire army of Midian?
- Where is a place that God is calling you to trust like this? Are you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you are seeking to make God's Name great instead of your own?
- How is God calling you to something big and do you trust Him to do it?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

23

PEOPLE ASK FOR A KING

KINGS

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God reacts when His people ask Him for a King

1 SAMUEL 8:1-22

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- God's people fail their first test and they are punished but God remains with them
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and God allows their enemies to rule over them but He also hears their cries and gives them judges to deliver them from their enemies
- Once the judge dies the people continue to return to their sin

OUTLINE

- I. **God chose Samuel as Judge over Israel**
 - A. Helped His people defeat the Philistines
 - B. Was a good judge
 - C. Samuel makes his sons judges over Israel before he dies
 1. His sons did not walk in his ways
 - a. Went after gain instead of God
 - b. Took bribes and perverted justice
- II. **The elders want new leadership**
 - A. Know that Samuel's sons aren't good leaders
 - B. They ask for a king instead
 1. Want to be just like the nations
 2. Everyone else has a king so we should also

III. Samuel goes to the Lord with their request

A. Lord's response

1. Obey the voice of the people in all they say to you
2. They have not rejected you but Me
3. They are continuing to forsake Me as they have since I brought them up out of Egypt
 - a. Still seeking after other things instead of Me
4. Tells Samuel to solemnly warn them about what it means to have a king

IV. Samuel warns the people about having a king

A. What a king will do

1. Take your sons and make them soldiers
2. Take your sons and make them work the ground for his food
3. Take your daughters to be performers, cooks and bakers
4. Take the best of your fields and orchards and vines
5. Take your servants and livestock and make them work for him
6. Take you as his slaves

B. You will cry out because of your king that you have chosen for yourselves

1. You will regret this decision
2. The Lord will not answer you in that day because you have chosen against Him

V. The response of the people

A. They refused to obey Samuel's voice

B. We want a king to be just like the nations

1. Our king will judge us
2. Our king will go before us and fight our battles

VI. God tells Samuel to obey them and make them a king

VII. Why is it such a big deal to have a king?

A. They are doing it to be just like every other nation

1. Have one who will lead them in battle

B. They are rejecting their true King

1. The reason they didn't have a king is because God was their King

2. He was the One who led them
3. He was the One who fought their battles for them
- C. Would rather have a human king than God as their King
- D. Keeps them from fulfilling their purpose
 1. Right now they are known to have God as their King
 - a. The success of the people directly reflects on God
 2. Once they have a king the king will get the credit that God deserves

VIII. SO WHAT??!

- A. The people show that they don't truly trust God
 1. Would rather have an earthly king than Him
 2. Would rather be like the rest of the nations

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- Who were the leaders of Israel at this time?
- Who did they want as their leader? Why?
- Why was it such a big deal that they wanted a king?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What did Israel want for their leadership?
- What warnings did they receive about having a king?
- Why did they want a king?
- Why was it such a big deal that they wanted a king?
- When is a time you wanted to be just like everyone else?
- When is a time that you have chosen something else instead of God?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that someone told you to do something and you just didn't listen but later you realized they were right?

READ 1 SAMUEL 2:12-36

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What is said about the sons of Eli?
- What was the practice of the priests with the sacrifice? What did Eli's sons do?
- What does Eli do when he hears of what his sons were doing?
- Why wouldn't they listen to him?
- What does God say to Eli through the man of God?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why was it a big deal how Eli's sons acted as leaders?
- Why do you think God cares so much about the leaders of His people?
- What are ways that you are leading God's people where you are?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are the people in your life you just aren't listening to but should?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you were helped by someone else when you really needed it? How did you respond to them?

READ 1 SAMUEL 7:3-15

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Samuel tell the people to do?
- How did they respond?
- What was Samuel doing for the people?
- How did Samuel help them when they became afraid?
- How did God save His people from the Philistines?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Where do you turn when you are afraid? Why?
- What does it mean that Samuel set up an Ebenezer?
- What are ways that you are setting yourself up to remember what the Lord has done and is doing for you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you typically deal with your sin? Your fear?
- How does God want to take care of both of those things?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

24

SAUL: A KING LIKE THE NATIONS

KINGS

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how having a king affects God's people

1 SAMUEL 9:1-2, 15-17, 10:17-24, 15:1-3, 7-31

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- All creation exists to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and God allows their enemies to rule over them but He also hears their cries and gives them judges to deliver them from their enemies but when judge dies people return to idolatry
- The people reject God as their King and want a king like the rest of the nations

OUTLINE

- I. Saul chosen to be king
 - A. 1 Samuel 9:1-2, 15-17
 1. Chosen because he would be a king like the nations
 - a. Good looking
 - b. Tall
 - c. Would be a good leader for war
 - i. Sometimes the kings would fight each other on behalf of the nations
 - ii. Saul would be intimidating
 - B. 1 Samuel 10:17-24
 1. Proclaimed as king before the people
 - a. Samuel speaks to the people on God's behalf
 - i. Reminds them that He delivered them from hand of Egypt
 - ii. Tells them that by getting a king they are ultimately rejecting Him
 - b. Each tribe presented themselves for lots to be cast to determine who the king would be
 - c. Saul was chosen but his response was to hide from the people—among the luggage
 - i. He was still chosen as king anyway

II. Saul's reign as king

- A. Starts well- 1 Samuel 11:5-11
 - 1. Unifies Israel in battle and defeats Ammonites
- B. Goes downhill fast- 1 Samuel 13:8-15
 - 1. Unlawfully offers sacrifice to the Lord
 - a. Only to be done by the Prophet
 - b. Saul was impatient while waiting for Samuel to come
 - c. Was direct disobedience
- C. His final mistake- 1 Samuel 15:1-3, 7-31
 - 1. Clear expectations set out for Saul—verses 1-3
 - a. Defeat Amalek
 - b. Devote them and all they have to destruction
 - 2. Saul doesn't obey—verses 7-9
 - a. Saul defeats the Amalekites
 - b. Devoted people to destruction
 - c. Kept the king and best of the livestock
 - i. Only destroyed what was worthless and despised
 - 3. The Lord's response—verses 10-11
 - a. He regrets that He made Saul king
 - b. Saul is removed as king
 - 4. Saul's response—verses 12-31
 - a. I have done what the Lord asked
 - b. When confronted he made excuses
 - i. The people did it not me
 - ii. I listened to them
 - c. He finally confesses
 - d. Asks for forgiveness but also wants the honor of the people

III. God tells Samuel to get another king for Israel

- A. A man after God's own heart
 - 1. 1 Samuel 13:14

IV. SO WHAT?!!

- A. The people get what they wanted from God
 - 1. A king like the nations
 - 2. Saul disobeys the Lord repeatedly
- B. God finally rejects Saul as king

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- Who was selected as king over Israel? Why was he selected?
- What did Saul do as king?
- What excuses did Saul make for his disobedience?
- When is a time that you made excuses to God for your sin?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Why was Saul chosen as king?
- What criteria would you use to choose a king?
- When has God called you to do or be something that made you scared?
- What happens to Saul as king?
- How did he disobey the Lord?
- When confronted with his sin how did he respond?
- When your sin gets found out how do you typically respond?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What are some of the biggest needs people have in your school? At church? In Memphis?

READ 1 SAMUEL 11:1-15

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened to the people of Jabesh?
- What deal would Nahash make with the people?
- What did they do to get help?
- How did Saul and the people respond when they heard?
- What happened to Saul and what did he do?
- How did the people respond?
- What happened to the Ammonites?
- How did the people respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Where are the places you turn when you need help? Why?
- Who are the people you see or know who need others to come alongside and help?
- What are ways you can provide that help?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Are you in touch and aware of the suffering around you?
- What are ways that you are actively seeking to help those in need?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you listened to others and went with the crowd and it backfired?

READ 1 SAMUEL 15:1-35

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What instructions did Saul receive from Samuel?
- Did Saul obey all of the Lord's commands?
- How did Samuel confront Saul about his sin?
- What excuses did Saul make?
- What happened to Saul? Agag?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are things in your life you should devote to destruction but are still keeping around? Why?
- What excuses do you make when you get caught doing wrong?
- How do other people influence what you do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What influenced Saul to disobey?
- Who are the people in your life who most often influence you away from the Lord?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

25

DAVID: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

KINGS

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how having a king affects God's people

1 SAMUEL 16, 17, 18, 19, 2 SAMUEL 5, 7

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them
- The people reject God as their King and want a king like the rest of the nations
- Saul is chosen king but disobeys the Lord and is replaced

OUTLINE

- I. David chosen to be king—1 Samuel 16
 - A. God had told Samuel what he wanted
 1. A man after God's own heart—1 Sam 13:14
 2. David fulfills that—Acts 13:22
 - B. God tells Samuel where to go and he would reveal who would become king
 1. Go to Jesse from Bethlehem
 2. Samuel believes it must be Eliab
 - a. He was the oldest which meant he was the biggest and strongest
 - b. Lord's response—"The Lord doesn't see as man sees. Man looks on outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart."
 3. Each of Jesse's sons went before Samuel to see if they were the chosen one
 - a. None were chosen
 - b. Samuel asks if there are any more sons
 - c. Jesse's response—"There is the youngest but he tends the sheep"
 - i. Basically, he can't be the one
 4. David shows up

- a. Immediately Samuel anoints him
 - i. What you do to the king
 - b. The Spirit of the Lord came upon David
 - i. Stayed with him from that day forward
5. David can't take the throne yet because of Saul

II. David is blessed by God

- A. Used to defeat Israel's enemies
 - 1. Goliath—1 Samuel 17
 - 2. The Philistines drew battle lines against Israel
 - 3. Their champion Goliath challenged any from Israel to face him
 - a. Whoever prevailed would win victory for their people
 - b. He was much bigger and stronger than anyone else
 - c. None would dare face him
 - 4. David hears the taunts from Goliath and goes to face him
 - 5. God allows David to defeat Goliath
 - a. With a sling and some stones
 - 6. David wins victory for all of Israel
- B. Receives favor from the people
 - 1. 1 Samuel 18:6-16
 - 2. People came out to celebrate David and what he did
 - a. Saul has struck down his thousands and David his tens of thousands
 - 3. It made Saul very angry
 - a. He desired to kill David
 - 4. David had success in all his undertakings
 - a. All of Israel and Judah loved David
- C. Protects him from Saul
 - 1. 1 Samuel 19:1-18
 - 2. Saul tries to kill David
 - a. His son Jonathan tells David of his plans
 - b. Michal lets David down through a window
 - 3. God is protecting His man and the future king of His people

III. David is anointed as king

- A. 2 Samuel 5
 - 1. All the tribes of Israel came to meet David

- a. Acknowledged that he was the one
- b. Made a covenant with David
2. God speaks to him
 - a. You will be shepherd of my people
 - b. You will be prince over Israel
3. David captures the city of Jerusalem
 - a. Where his kingdom will be headquartered

IV. God makes a covenant with David

- A. 2 Samuel 7
- B. David had a desire to build a house for the Lord
- C. God speaks to David
 1. I have been with you wherever you go and have cut off your enemies from you
 2. I will make for you a great name
 3. I will plant Israel in a land for good
 4. I will give you rest from your enemies
 5. When you die I will keep your offspring on the throne
 - a. I will establish his kingdom
 - b. My steadfast love shall not depart from him
 6. Your throne will be established forever
 - a. Points us to Jesus
 - b. He will be offspring that sits on the throne forever
 - c. True King over God's people

V. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God longs to give His people good leaders
- B. God chooses David as king and blesses him as he leads God's people
- C. David points us to Jesus
 1. The King who will reign forever

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- Why was David selected as king?
- How did God bless David?
- How does God use David to protect His people?
- Who has God put in your life to help you?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Why did God choose David to be the king?
- How often do you look at people's hearts rather than their outward appearances?
- How does Saul react to David? Why?
- Who is someone you are really jealous of? How do you act towards them?
- How does David point us to Jesus?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you were tempted to do the wrong thing but instead chose what was right? How did it feel?

READ 1 SAMUEL 24:1-22

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Why was Saul trying to kill David?
- As Saul is searching for David, where does he go? Who is there?
- What did David's men want him to do?
- What does David do? How does he feel about it?
- What does David say to Saul?
- How does Saul respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why do you think David didn't just kill Saul and become king?
- When is a time you saw a shortcut to something and took it? How did it work out for you?
- Do you truly trust that God will handle your enemies so you don't have to?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How do you treat those who are against you?
- Who are the people who are against you now?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Where is your favorite place that you have ever eaten? Why? It can be a restaurant or someone's house.

READ 2 SAMUEL 9:1-13

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What question does David ask? Who is Jonathan?
- What does David find out?
- What are we told about Mephibosheth?
- How did he respond when he saw David?
- What does David do for him?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why would Mephibosheth be wary of going to David? He was a relative of the king and all
- What would his life have been like being crippled?
- How does David make sure he is cared for?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that God treats you like this?
- What is one way you can follow David's example here?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

26

SOLOMON AND THE TEMPLE

KINGS

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see the importance of the temple in God's plan

1 KINGS 2:1-4, 3:1-15, 8:6-11, 9:1-9

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings

OUTLINE

- I. David selects Solomon to be king- 1 Kings 2:1-4
 - A. Not the expected choice
 1. Usually the oldest son became king
 2. Was the son of Bathsheba
 - a. Reminder of his greatest sin
 - B. Gives him instructions on being king
 1. Walk in the ways of the Lord
 2. Obey His commands
 3. Conveys promise Lord gave to him
 - a. If your sons obey me there will always be one on the throne
- II. God establishes Solomon as king- 1 Kings 3:1-15
 - A. Solomon was not keeping all of God's commands
 1. Made marriage alliance with Pharaoh
 - a. God had commanded His people not to intermarry with people of the lands
 - b. Was also typically used as a way of military protection
 2. Was worshipping at the high places

- a. Altars set up to sacrifice to other "gods"
 - B. Solomon did love the Lord
 - C. God meets Solomon where he is
 - 1. At one of the high places where he was worshipping
 - 2. Offers Solomon a gift
 - a. Tells him He will give him whatever he asks for
 - b. Solomon asks for wisdom
 - i. Wanted to be a good king
 - ii. Wanted to know the right things to do
 - iii. Realized he was young and inexperienced
 - 3. God blesses Solomon beyond what he asked for
 - a. Promises him long life and riches
 - b. No king will compare to Solomon
 - c. Makes him wisest man who ever lived
 - 4. Solomon's response
 - a. Went to correct place to worship the Lord
 - i. Went to ark in Jerusalem
 - ii. Realized that the people needed a place to worship that wasn't the high places
- III. Solomon gets the privilege of building the temple- 1 Kings 8:6-11, 9:1-9**
- A. Fulfill what God had put on David's heart
 - 1. A place where God's people could worship Him
 - 2. A place where people from the nations could come and hear about Him
 - B. It took 7 years to build
 - C. As they dedicate it, God shows up
 - 1. Cloud of the Lord filled the Temple
 - a. His Glory
 - b. Same cloud that filled the Tabernacle and led them out of Egypt and through the wilderness
 - 2. The dwelling place of God was now with men
 - 3. A place where people from all nations could come and learn about the Lord
 - 4. God has put His Name there at the Temple
 - a. They can spread His Glorious Kingdom as people come to see this marvel and hear about the Lord's goodness
 - D. Warning of the Lord

1. Calls the people to continued obedience to Him
2. If you turn aside and serve other gods
 - a. Will cut you off from your land
 - b. Will cast this house out of my sight
 - i. Make it a heap of ruins
 - c. Will make you a warning to the people of the Earth
 - i. Because they abandoned the Lord so He abandoned them
 - ii. Even in their sin and rebellion, God will still make His Name known

IV. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God has made for Himself a place where people can hear about His glorious Kingdom
- B. God requires the faithfulness and obedience of His people

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What sticks out to you about Solomon?
- What is the point of the temple? What is the temple today?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What was unique about Solomon?
- If God came and told you that you could ask for anything, what would you honestly ask Him for?
- What was the point of the temple at this time?
- What is the temple today?
- What things in your life turn you away from God?
- Where are places in your life where you were once faithful to God but aren't anymore? Why?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is a hard decision that you had to make lately when you just weren't sure what to do? How did you decide?

READ 1 KINGS 3:16-28

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What was the issue that came before Solomon?
- What did both women say?
- What did the king decide?
- How did that reveal the truth?
- How did the people respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How would you try and solve this problem?
- Who are the people in your life that you go to for wisdom?
- What are ways that you are seeking to understand the truth in your life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why is having godly counsel so important for us?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How are you helping others to know the Lord and His will?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is your favorite thing about going to church? What is your least favorite thing?

READ 1 KINGS 8:1-21

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where were the people gathered and for what purpose?
- What did the priests do?
- What did the people do?
- What happened after the priests left?
- What does Solomon do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Imagine what it would have been like to be there for this. How would you respond?
- What are the ways we are to go to God like this today?
- How important is worship in your everyday life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you are now the temple of God? How are you living that out?
- What does your worship life look like?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

27

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

KINGS

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how the sin of the kings separates God's people

1 KINGS 12:1-33

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings and then uses Solomon to build the temple where all can come and hear about His Kingdom

OUTLINE

- I. **Solomon dies and a new king reigns**
 - A. Names his son Rehoboam king
 - B. The people come to complain
 1. Solomon's rule was hard on the people
 2. They had to carry a heavy burden
 3. Ask Rehoboam to lighten it
 - C. Rehoboam's response
 1. Sought counsel from some of the older men
 - a. They told him to listen and obey the people
 - b. He ignored their counsel
 2. Went to those he knew who were his age
 - a. They told him to make the burden heavier
 - b. He should show his power and that he is greater than his father

- c. He listened to them and told the people
- 3. We see the importance of having older people in our lives and learning from their wisdom

II. Jeroboam rises up

- A. He was a servant of Solomon
- B. God spoke to him through the prophet Ahijah
 - 1. God would give him 10 tribes
 - 2. In response to Solomon's sin
- C. Jeroboam began to lead the people against Rehoboam
 - 1. Was the one who came to the king with complaints
- D. The people in the cities followed Rehoboam and the rest followed Jeroboam
- E. Each side prepared for battle
 - 1. God spoke to Rehoboam
 - 2. This that has happened is from Me so don't fight each other
- F. Now Israel was officially torn in two
 - 1. Israel- led by Jeroboam
 - a. 10 tribes
 - b. Asher, Dan, Gad, Issachar, Ephraim, Mannaseh, Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon, Zebulun
 - 2. Judah- led by Rehoboam
 - a. 2 tribes
 - b. Benjamin and Judah
 - c. Had the city of Jerusalem and thus the temple

III. Jeroboam's reign—1 Kings 12:25-33

- A. Knew the people would turn back to Judah if they went to the temple in Jerusalem
 - 1. Knew worship was important
 - 2. Wanted to keep his new kingdom intact
- B. Made two calves of gold
 - 1. Idols for the people to worship
 - 2. Called them the gods that brought them up out of worship
 - a. Seems a little familiar doesn't it??

- C. Appointed priests and made temples for the idols
 - 1. Had feast days for the idols
 - 2. Made sacrifices to the idols
- D. All of this was devised from his own heart and not from the Lord
 - 1. To keep the people loyal to him
 - 2. Turned the people away from worshipping the Lord

IV. Rehoboam's reign—1 Kings 14:21-31

- A. Had the advantage of the temple in his land
- B. Built high places for the people to worship instead of at the temple
 - 1. Led the people astray from worshipping the true God
 - 2. Did what was evil in the sight of the Lord
 - 3. Provoked the Lord to jealousy
 - 4. Did as the nations did that they did not drive out as God had commanded them
- C. Took out the things in the temple devoted to God
 - 1. Items created for worship and used for battle
 - 2. Again is disobedience to the Lord

V. It doesn't take long

- A. God's people that He had created to spread His Kingdom have now split into two groups and both groups are going after other gods instead of the Lord
 - 1. How quickly they forgot what the Lord did
 - 2. How quickly they forgot what the Lord said
- B. The kings that they had asked for have now led them away from God

VI. SO WHAT??!!

- A. We all are capable of forgetting about God to get or keep the things we want most
- B. We are all made to worship and if we don't worship God we will worship something else
- C. God desires for us to be unified but it is often easier to separate

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What happened after Solomon died?
- How was Rehoboam not a good king?
- Why did the kingdom divide?
- What happened once they did divide?
- When is a time that you disobeyed what the Lord called you to do?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Why did the kingdom divide? Whose fault was it?
- How had God's people lost their original purpose?
- What happened to the people once they divided?
- How do we see the people's decisions coming back to haunt them?
- How have you seen something you really wanted come back and be a bad thing?
- How have you worshipped other things besides God?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you had to walk away from something or someone because you knew it was wrong to be there?

READ 2 CHRONICLES 11:1-17

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it say that Rehoboam was trying to do?
- How was he planning to do it?
- Why did he decide not to do it?
- What did Rehoboam build?
- Who came to Rehoboam? What was their purpose?
- Why did they come to him?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why was it significant that the priests left Israel and came to Judah?
- Who are the people in your life who help you understand God better?
- How are you seeking the Lord in your life right now?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are the people who make you more secure because they lead you to God?
- Where is a place that you need to make a hard decision to leave like this?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you really made a big mistake? How did you try and make it right?

READ 1 CHRONICLES 12:1-14

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened once Rehoboam got comfortable?
- What happened to them in their unfaithfulness?
- What did Shemaiah tell the king?
- How did the king and the princes do? How did God respond?
- What did Shishak do?
- How did it all end?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How do you treat God when you really need something?
- How do you treat God when things are going well?
- How often do you truly see your need for the Lord?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time that you truly humbled yourself before the Lord? Why?
- When is a time you felt abandoned by God? Why?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

28

WICKED AND GOOD KINGS

KINGS

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God worked through and in both the good
and bad kings for His people

1 KINGS 16, 2 KINGS 18, 19, 21-23

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings and then uses Solomon to build the temple where all can come and hear about His Kingdom
- After Solomon died, the kingdom is divided in two and thus starts generations of both good and bad kings who rule over Israel

OUTLINE

I. Kings of Israel

A. Israel never has a king who leads the people towards the Lord

B. An example of the kings of Israel

1. Ahab—1 Kings 16:29-34
2. Did more evil in the sight of the Lord than all the kings before him
3. Walked in the sins of Jeroboam
 - a. Led the people into idolatry
4. Followed after his wife Jezebel into idolatry
5. Even erected an altar for Baal
6. Sacrificed his own sons in false worship
7. All the kings after him followed his example

- a. Engaged in false worship
- b. Led God's people into the worship of idols

II. Kings of Judah

A. Judah had both good and bad kings

B. Good kings of Judah

1. Hezekiah—2 Kings 18 and 19

- a. Did what was right in the eyes of the Lord
 - i. Compared to David rather than his dad Ahaz who was a bad king
- b. Removed the high places and the idols that represented the false gods
- c. Trusted in the Lord
- d. None like him before or after this
- e. Kept the commandments that the Lord gave Moses
- f. The Lord was with him wherever he went
 - i. Even protected him and Israel from Assyria after they conquered Jerusalem

2. Josiah—2 Kings 22 and 23

- a. Did what was right, not like his father Amon
- b. Repaired the temple so the people could worship the Lord
- c. Finds the book of the law and has it read among the people
- d. Gets rid of the idols among them
 - i. Cleaned everything out of the temple
 - ii. Destroyed the high place and all false idols
- e. Even has the people celebrate the Passover
 - i. Hadn't been done since when there were judges
 - ii. Reminding them of what the Lord had done for them

C. Evil king of Judah—Mannasseh

1. 2 Kings 21:1-16

2. Did what was evil in the sight of the Lord

- a. Did not follow in the footsteps of his father Hezekiah

3. Rebuilt the high places of false gods so people would worship there

4. Built altars for false gods in the Lord's temple

- a. Even burned his son as an offering to a false god

5. Led Israel astray to do more evil than the nations had done that the Lord destroyed before Israel
 - a. Lost their unique witness
 - b. Were now even worse than the other nations

III. Difference between the kings

- A. It was all about worship
 1. The good kings led the people to worship the Lord and Him alone
 2. The wicked kings led the people to worship false gods and idols
- B. In the end God is still at work

IV. SO WHAT??!

- A. We all worship something so who or what is encouraging you in your worship
 1. What is it that you truly worship?
- B. God gives us people to help us know and love Him
 1. Do we listen to them?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- Which of the kings do you remember from this morning? Why?
- Who are people that God has put in your life that lead you away from the Lord?
- Who are people that God has put in your life that lead you towards the Lord?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What set good kings apart from bad kings?
- Who in your life has the most influence on you?
- Who helps you know Jesus more in your life?
- Who leads you away from Jesus the most in your life?
- What are things that the good kings did that you would also like to do?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is your favorite game to play? Why?

READ 2 CHRONICLES 15:1-19

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who was the king at this time? Who went out to speak to him?
- What did Azariah say to the king?
- What was Israel without for a long time? What did they do?
- How did Asa respond to the words?
- What covenant did they enter into with the Lord?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you are seeking the Lord? What are ways you are forsaking Him?
- How have you seen God answer you in your distress?
- Why is it so important to seek the Lord?
- What one thing did Asa not do but should have?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How are you seeking the Lord on a daily basis?
- What are ways you have found the Lord?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is the meanest person you know? Why do you think they act that way? How can you still love them?

READ 2 CHRONICLES 21:1-21

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did Jehoram do when he became king? Why would he do that?
- What did it say about his reign as king?
- What would God not do? Why?
- What did the people do because of his reign?
- What did Elijah say to him?
- How did his reign end?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Where have you seen God's grace and mercy on you when you didn't deserve it?
- Who are the people in your life that warn you when you are getting off on the wrong track?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are the people in your life that warn you when you are getting off on the wrong track?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

29

PROPHETS PART 1: GOD'S HEART

EXILE

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God used His prophets to warn His people

1 KINGS 17 & 18

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings and then uses Solomon to build the temple where all can come and hear about His Kingdom
- Most of the kings turn out to be wicked and lead the people away from God
- God chooses to speak to His people through the prophets to counteract the kings

OUTLINE

- I. **Ahab is king**
 - A. 1 Kings 16:32-33
 1. Worshipped Baal and Asherah
 2. Led the people into false worship as well
 3. Made altars and high places for them to worship
 4. "Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him"
- II. **God speaks against the king and false worship through the prophet Elijah**
 - A. Since the king wasn't following the Lord's commands
 - B. Prophets would go to the king first but most times they wouldn't listen
 - C. God raises up Elijah to get Israel's attention—1 Kings 17:1-7

1. Declares that there will be a drought in the whole land
 2. There will be no rain except at Elijah's word
 3. In their distress the hope is that they will turn back to the Lord
 4. It is also to show that their worship is false
 - a. Baal was supposed to be the god that brought rain, so no rain means that Baal wasn't working
 5. Ahab and Jezebel (his wife) were very angry at the prophets of God and killed many of them
 6. They sought diligently for Elijah
- D. God uses Elijah to confront Israel's idolatry—I Kings 18:1-40
1. Elijah asks Ahab to meet with him
 - a. Calls out the king for troubling Israel
 - i. Abandoned the commandments of the Lord
 - ii. Followed the Baals
 - iii. Led others astray
 - iv. Very bold to speak to the king like this
 - b. Tells Ahab to assemble the people and all the false prophets
 - i. 450 prophets of Baal
 - ii. 400 prophets of Asherah
 2. Elijah has a plan to reveal who the true God is
 - a. First speaks to the crowd
 - i. Calls them out for their sin
 - ii. Limping between two opinions
 - Lord is God vs. Baal is god
 - Tells them that they should follow whoever the true God is
 - b. Has a way the people can know for sure
 - i. Each group gets a bull and makes an altar and prays to their God and the God who answers by fire is the one, true God
 - ii. The people are pleased with this and agree to it
 - c. Prophets of Baal
 - i. Elijah lets them go first
 - ii. They choose their bull and make their altar and begin to cry out to Baal
 - iii. 450 prophets crying out and dancing from morning until noon but no answer
 - Elijah begins to taunt them
 - Cry louder
 - Maybe he is asleep
 - Maybe he is on a journey
 - Maybe he is using the bathroom
 - iv. The prophets then begin to cut themselves and bleed so he might answer

- Believed that Baal wanted their pain and blood before he would answer them
- v. After all this, they heard nothing from Baal
 - “but there was no voice, no one answered, no one paid attention”
- d. Elijah
 - i. Repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down
 - ii. Dug a trench around the altar
 - iii. Prepared the wood and the sacrifice but also did something unusual
 - Had them fill four jars of water and pour it on the altar, sacrifice and the wood
 - They did this 3 times
 - Wet wood doesn't burn so wanted to make sure the people realized that it was God and not him
 - The water filled the trench around the altar
 - Was a big deal to use water this way since they were in a drought
 - iv. Prays to the Lord
 - God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
 - Reminding the people who He is and how He has kept his covenant with His people
 - Let it be known that You are the only God in Israel
 - Answer me so these people may know You and turn back to You
 - v. God's response
 - Was immediate—didn't have to wait on and on like prophets of Baal
 - Fire came down from heaven
 - Consumed the sacrifice and the wet wood
 - Burned up the stones and the dust
 - Licked up all the water in the trench
 - Would have been a very hot and powerful fire
- e. The people's response
 - i. Fell down on their faces to worship the Lord
 - ii. Said that the Lord is God
- f. Elijah tells them to gather all the false prophets and put them to death
 - i. And they do
 - ii. Punishment for leading people away from the Lord
 - iii. Warning to God's people not to worship other gods
- g. In the end God sends them rain now that they know it comes from Him and not Baal

III. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God's people had turned far from Him and went after foreign gods
- B. They needed to be reminded who He was
 - 1. He sends Elijah
 - 2. He causes it not to rain to get their attention
 - 3. He shows up in fire to prove that He alone is God
- C. God reminds the people what happens to those who worship other gods

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- How did God get the attention of His people?
- How did God use Elijah to help His people?
- When is a time that you forgot God?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What was the problem with God's people at this time?
- How did God get their attention?
- What does God do to get your attention?
- How did the people respond to God showing up?
- How do you respond when you remember the Lord?
- What is a false god that you are worshipping now?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could do any job for just a year what would it be and why?

READ JEREMIAH 3:11-4:2

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does the Lord tell Jeremiah to say?
- How should they hear these words?
- What will God give them?—verse 15
- What does God tell them to do 4:1-2?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How do you feel that God isn't angry forever?
- How often do you think that God is mad at you? Why?
- What would it look like practically to return to the Lord?
- What are ways that you can hear the Lord's voice to you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you have returned to Him and keep returning to Him?
- What shepherds has the Lord given you? How do you treat them?
- How has God continued to show you His grace and favor?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could be present at any one moment in the Bible, what would it be and why?

READ ISAIAH 63:7-14

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it mean to recount?
- What are the things that Isaiah reminds them that God has done?
- What did the people do to God's grace?
- What did God do for them?
- Why did God lead His people?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are some great things you can praise God for?
- How have you seen God show you grace and mercy that you don't deserve?
- How has God used you to make a Name for Himself?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you have rebelled against God?
- How is God currently using you to make a Name for Himself?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

30

PROPHETS PART 2: GOD'S HEART

EXILE

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God used His prophets to warn His people

HOSEA 1:1-11, 14-23, 11:1-9, 14:1-9

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings and then uses Solomon to build the temple where all can come and hear about His Kingdom
- Most of the kings turn out to be wicked and lead the people away from God
- God chooses to speak to His people through the prophets to counteract the kings

OUTLINE

- I. God reveals His heart to His people through Hosea
 - A. Shows them their sin—Hosea 1:1-11
 1. Hosea lives out an example of God's love
 - a. He plays the role of God
 - i. Takes an unfaithful wife
 - ii. Their sin was exactly like this
 - b. Shows what unfaithful children are called
 - i. Punishment, Not my People, No Mercy
 - B. Shows God's heart—Hosea 2:14-23, 3:1-3
 1. God will come after His people

- a. Tenderly
 - b. Will try and allure them
 2. Will take away the names of the Baals from their mouths
 - a. Will be their husband
 - b. Will bring them to Him in justice, love and mercy
 3. Will change their names
 - a. Punishment to blessing
 - b. No mercy to mercy
 - c. Not my people to my people
 4. God will pay to redeem them and bring them home
 - a. As Hosea paid to redeem Gomer
 - b. Brought her home with him
 - C. Israel's punishment–Hosea 11:1-9
 1. Assyria will become their king
 2. Swords shall rage in their cities and devour them
 3. God will not destroy them however
 - a. Will not pour out His full wrath and burning anger
 - D. God pleads with Israel–Hosea 14:1-9
 1. Return to the Lord your God
 2. You will not be saved by other nations
 3. I will answer you and love you freely
 4. He will answer and look after them
- II. SO WHAT??!
- A. God knows what His people are doing
 - B. God longs for His people to worship Him alone
 - C. God reveals His heart not just through Hosea's words but through his life as well

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- How does God show His people their sin?
- How did God use Hosea to show His people God's heart?
- How has God shown you His heart for you?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What was going on with Israel at this time?
- How did God use Hosea to show His people His heart?
- How does it make you see the Lord differently through His use of the prophets?
- In what ways has the Lord been trying to get your attention? Has it worked?
- What idols are you worshipping instead of God?
- What would it look like for you to return to Him?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could change your name to something else what would it be and why?

READ EZEKIEL 36:16-32

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does the Word of the Lord say to Ezekiel?
- What does wrath mean?
- What did the people do?
- What did God have concern for?
- Why does God act according to verse 22?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you are concerned for God's Name?
- What will God do for His people?
- How has He given you a new heart?
- How does God remove our hearts of stone?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you have profaned the Name of the Lord amongst the people?
- How have you seen your heart be like stone?
- How are you broken over your sin?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you were asked to sing a song in front of a crowd, what song would you sing and why?

READ ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God call the people to do?
- Why should they sing and rejoice?
- Where is God?
- What are we told about Him?
- What does God do for His people?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you feel God in your midst?
- How has God taken away the judgments against you?
- What do you think God feels about you most of the time? Why?
- How does it make you feel about God singing over you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What difference does it make that the Lord takes great delight in you?
- What does it mean that He will quiet you with His love?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

31

THE EXILE

EXILE

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God finally punished His people for their sin
as He had promised

2 KINGS 17:6-23, 2 KINGS 25:1-20

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings and then uses Solomon to build the temple where all can come and hear about His Kingdom
- Most of the kings turn out to be wicked and lead the people away from God
- God chooses to speak to His people through the prophets to counteract the kings
- God constantly warns the people to turn away from idols and back to Him

OUTLINE

- I. **God had constantly warned His people against their idolatry**
 - A. Revealed that there would be punishment for the constant and deliberate sinning
 - B. Had even let them know what would happen
 1. Would be defeated by foreign enemies
 2. Taken away from their land to foreign lands
 - C. Would do this so they would remember the Lord in their distress and turn back to Him
- II. **Exile of Israel**
 - A. Had constantly been led by wicked kings
 1. Led them to worship other gods
 2. Turned the hearts of the people away from the Lord

- B. God sends Assyria to do His work
 - 1. Came and fought against them and captured the city Samaria
 - 2. Took the people from their land and homes and took them back to Assyria
- C. Because of their sin
 - 1. Feared and worshipped other gods
 - 2. Walked in the ways of the nations
 - a. Burned their sons and daughters as offerings
 - 3. Provoked the Lord to anger
 - 4. Even though the Lord had warned them through all the prophets
 - a. They would not listen
 - 5. Abandoned the commandments of the Lord
 - 6. Because of all this, God removed them from His sight
- D. Israel was not returned
 - 1. In exile until this day
 - 2. God did not bring them back to the Promised Land as He did for Judah
 - a. Promised line of the Messiah

III. Exile of Judah

- A. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, brought his army against Jerusalem
- B. They surrounded the city and battled against it for two years
 - 1. Created a famine in the city
 - 2. Nothing could come in or out
 - 3. They finally made a breach in the wall and came in
- C. Once in Jerusalem the army destroys it
 - 1. Burned the king's palace
 - 2. Burned the Temple
 - 3. Burned the rest of the houses
 - 4. Broke down the walls
- D. Took the people captive
 - 1. Almost all those that they found
 - 2. Left some of the poorest people to work the land

- E. Took the worship items out of the Temple
 - 1. Treated them just as gold and silver objects
 - 2. Did not know what they were used for
 - 3. In a sense he is taking away their means of worship
 - F. Killed some of the leaders
 - 1. The chief priests
 - 2. King's council
 - 3. Officers and soldiers
 - G. Judah holds on to God's promise that He will bring them back home someday
- IV. How is God accomplishing His ultimate purpose through this?
- A. 2 Kings 17:24-28
 - B. The people from Assyria who came in didn't fear the Lord
 - 1. Because of this some were killed by lions
 - C. The king calls for one of God's priests to teach them about the Lord
 - 1. Taught them about Him and how to worship Him
 - D. His Kingdom is spreading through the world even in the people of Assyria
- V. SO WHAT??!!
- A. God longs for us to be with Him and worship Him
 - B. God knows that serving and worshipping Him is best for us as well
 - C. God will do whatever it takes to get our attention
 - 1. So that we will turn back to Him
 - 2. Even use wicked people and difficult circumstances
 - D. God is a God of Justice and sin deserves punishment
 - 1. God warned them and also punished them for their sin

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What happened to Israel and Judah? Why?
- Why would it be scary to have to go through that?
- How is God trying to get their attention through this?
- How is God trying to get your attention? Are you listening to Him?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What happened to Israel and Judah? Why?
- What are specific things that caused this to happen?
- What are ways that you are like them?
- How was God still protecting them even as they were captured?
- What are ways that God is trying to get your attention right now? Is it working? Why or why not?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the worst trouble you have ever gotten into? What was it that you did?

READ 2 KINGS 17:6-23

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened to the Israelites?
- Why did the Lord do this?
- Why did the people not listen?
- Why did they continue in their evil ways?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- In what ways are you also living like the world around you?
- How are you doing at listening to the Lord?
- What idols of the world are you tempted to worship?
- What would it take for God to get your attention?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are things you know the Lord has called you not to do that you have a hard time obeying?
- Why did God finally go to this extreme?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- How would you feel if someone knocked down your house and took your things? What would you miss most? Why?

READ JEREMIAH 52:12-30

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened to the temple?
- What happened to the walls?
- Why did they do this?
- Who was carried away and who was left?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you have seen the world attack God's people this way?
- Why did they do all this to the temple?
- What does it tell us about the people's sin that God responded this way?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you have treated God's temple this way (since you are the temple of the Holy Spirit)?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

32

GOD SPEAKS TO THE EXILES

EXILE

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God desires to give hope to His people who
are being punished for their sin

SELECTED PASSAGES FROM ISAIAH, JEREMIAH AND ZECHARIAH

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings and then uses Solomon to build the temple where all can come and hear about His Kingdom
- Most of the kings turn out to be wicked and lead the people away from God
- God chooses to speak to His people through the prophets to counteract the kings
- God continually warned His people and told them that if they continued to worship other gods that He would send them into exile and He does

OUTLINE

- I. **God's people are in a land not their own**
 - A. Have been taken against their will into foreign countries
 - B. They realize what they have done wrong and call out to the Lord
- II. **God uses His prophets to encourage His people while in exile**
 - A. God gives them three messages for them to hold on to
 - B. Remember—Isaiah 44:1-8, 21-23; 63:7-14
 1. I have chosen you
 2. I made you and formed you
 3. I will pour out my Spirit on you and your offspring

4. There is no other God like me
5. Fear not and don't be afraid
6. I will redeem you and blot out your sins
7. Remember what He has done
8. 63:14- "you led your people to make for yourself a glorious Name"

C. Remnant

1. God has chosen a group of His people who He will bring back from exile to be His people
2. 2 Kings 19:29-31
 - a. Had been promised by God to King Hezekiah
3. Isaiah 10:20-26, 11:11-16
 - a. A remnant of God's people will return
 - b. He will put an end to the nations that took them
 - c. God Himself will recover them from the land where they are
 - i. Will gather them from the four corners of the Earth
 - ii. Will bring them back to the land that He had

D. Return

1. God calls them to turn away from their idols and turn their hearts back and return to the Lord
2. 2 Chronicles 30:6-9
 - a. Calls them to return to Him
 - i. Will take care of them in exile
 - ii. God will be gracious and merciful to those who return to Him
 - iii. Will not turn His face from them
3. Jeremiah 3:6-23
 - a. Return to me
 - i. And I will not look on you in anger
 - ii. Acknowledge your guilt and rebellion
 - iii. I will bring you back to the land
 - iv. I will heal your faithlessness
4. Zechariah 1:1-6
 - a. Return to me and I will return to you
 - b. Return from your evil ways and evil deeds

III. SO WHAT??!

- A. God's people are in exile without hope
- B. God uses His prophets to speak hope to His people
 - 1. Gives them messages they need to hear
 - a. Remember
 - b. Remnant
 - c. Return

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What messages was God giving to His people in exile?
- What is something about God that you need to remember?
- In what area of life do you need to return to God?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What hope does God give the exiles?
- How often do you remember all the things the Lord has done for you?
- What does it look like to live as a remnant of God's?
- What are ways you can proclaim His Name with your actions?
- In what area of your life do you need to return to God and follow Him as you once did?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is something you are very excited about that's coming up? Why?

READ ISAIAH 62:1-12

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God say He will not do? Why?
- What will the nations see?
- What will God give them?
- How is God going to be with them and protect them?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why is this such good news to the exiles?
- What promises is God giving to His people here?
- How do those promises apply to you?
- What names does God give His people here? Which mean the most to you? Why?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does it make you feel that God calls His people "my delight is in you"?
- Do you believe God feels that way about you? Why or why not?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is someone you need to apologize to? Have you? Will you?

READ ZECHARIAH 1:1-6

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God tell Zechariah to say to the people?
- How would this give them hope?
- Who are they not supposed to be like? Why?
- What are we to obey?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you need to return to the Lord?
- What gets in the way of your returning to Him?
- How is returning to God a part of repentance?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What would returning to the Lord look like in your everyday life?
- What role does repentance play in your life?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

33

**GOD WORKS THROUGH
HIS PEOPLE IN THE EXILE
PART 1: DANIEL**

EXILE

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God was working in and through His people
even during the exile

SELECTED PASSAGES FROM DANIEL

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings and then uses Solomon to build the temple where all can come and hear about His Kingdom
- Most of the kings turn out to be wicked and lead the people away from God
- God chooses to speak to His people through the prophets to counteract the kings
- God continually warned His people and told them that if they continued to worship other gods that He would send them into exile and He does

OUTLINE

- I. **God's people have been taken into exile**
 - A. First Israel and then Judah
 - B. God makes promises that He will be with His people even in exile
 - C. God promises that He will bring a remnant of Judah back to the Promised Land
- II. **The people of Judah are accepted into and adapting to the Babylonian culture**
 - A. Daniel 1:1-21
 - B. Nebuchadnezzar selected certain Jews to be in his palace
 1. Children of the royal families
 2. Youths of good appearance and skill
 3. Wants to teach them the way of Babylon—language, culture, etc

- a. Make them ambassadors of Babylon wherever they go
- b. Directly competing with their call as God's people
- 4. Gave them food and provisions
- 5. Even gave them new Babylonian names

III. God's people standing against the culture

- A. Daniel and his friends see that it's wrong what the king is trying to do
 - 1. Make them eat food they aren't allowed to
 - 2. Make them just like the Babylonians instead of God's unique people
 - 3. Refuse to eat the food and ask for only water and vegetables
 - 4. God blesses them for their obedience
 - a. Looked better than those eating the king's food
 - b. Gave them learning, wisdom and understanding
 - i. Even allowed them to interpret visions and dreams
 - c. None found were like Daniel and his friends
 - i. The king even took notice of them and their wisdom
- B. Daniel's friends and false worship
 - 1. The king worshipped false gods and led his people to do the same
 - a. Made a golden image for them to worship
 - b. Commanded all people to bow down to it at the sound of the instruments
 - c. Punishment as death in the fiery furnace
 - 2. Daniel's friends would not worship the idol
 - a. They knew that they were only supposed to worship the LORD alone
 - b. Some of the leaders found out and told the king
 - c. They were brought before the king and ordered to worship
 - i. Would be easy to give in at the presence of a king
 - ii. Knew that he could have them killed
 - d. They bravely determine that they will not bow down
 - i. Tell the king this
 - ii. We serve a God who can save us from you
 - iii. But even if He doesn't, we will not worship a false god
 - Their obedience was not dependent upon God's present actions
 - Trusted God even if He allowed them to die
 - God was worthy of their worship

- e. The king was very angry at their words
 - i. Ordered furnace heated seven times more than usual
 - ii. It was so hot that some of the men who threw them in were killed
 - f. The three friends were not burning up
 - i. The king sees four men in there
 - Most scholars believe it was Jesus in there with them before He had come to Earth
 - Protecting God's people from harm and saving them from death
 - g. King's response
 - i. Come out and come here
 - ii. Called them servants of the Most High God
 - Realized their God was the one true God
 - iii. Found that not even their hair or clothes were even slightly burned and they didn't even smell like smoke
 - Pretty amazing since whenever I am around a fire I smell like smoke
 - iv. Leads him to worship
 - Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
 - Anyone who speaks against their God shall be torn limb from limb and their house destroyed
 - h. Their willingness to stand for God changed the heart of the king
- C. Daniel and false worship—Daniel 6:1-28
- 1. There was a new king who also worshipped other gods
 - 2. He was pleased with Daniel and gave him a place of responsibility and honor
 - a. Set him over all other leaders
 - b. Made the other leaders jealous and they wanted to find a way to trap Daniel
 - i. Knew it had to be about his relationship with the Lord
 - 3. The officials come up with a plan
 - a. All the people should only pray to the king for the next 30 days
 - b. Anyone who violates this should be thrown in the lion's den to be eaten and killed
 - c. The king made this decree law
 - 4. Daniel had a hard choice to make
 - a. Obey the Lord or the king's decree
 - b. If he didn't pray would anyone know besides him??
 - c. God would understand if he took some time off

5. Daniel obeys the Lord
 - a. Goes into his room and bows down in prayer to the Lord
 - i. Three times a day
 - ii. With his window open
 - iii. As he always did
 - iv. Wasn't trying to hide it at all
 - b. He was turned in by the officials to the king
6. The king's response
 - a. Had to put Daniel in the lion's den
 - i. Couldn't change the law he had made
 - ii. Made him sad to do it
 - iii. Tried to rescue him
 - b. Speaks to Daniel
 - i. May your God whom you serve continually deliver you
 - ii. Had some hope for Daniel
 - c. Couldn't sleep that night
 - d. Went first thing in the morning to see Daniel
7. Daniel in the lion's den
 - a. Was not killed
 - b. Told the king that the Lord closed the mouths of the lions
 - c. Because he was found blameless by God
 - d. King was exceedingly glad and had Daniel brought out
8. The end result of it all
 - a. Those who falsely accused Daniel were killed by the lions
 - b. Darius proclaims the Lord to all people that dwell on Earth
 - i. Requires all people he rules over to worship the One True and Living God
 - Tremble and fear before Daniel's God
 - ii. Tells them who God is
 - He delivers and rescues
 - Works signs and wonders
 - Loving God
 - Will endure forever
 - iii. God even uses a foreign king to spread his glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth!!!

IV. SO WHAT??!

- A. God is using His people even in difficult circumstances
 - 1. Even in captivity
 - 2. Blesses them to be a blessing to the people they are with
- B. He saves and protects His people
- C. He makes His Name known in the foreign lands
 - 1. Uses them to spread it further

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- Where were God's people?
- How was God blessing them?
- How did they stand up for God?
- How did God's Kingdom spread through all this?
- How are you spreading God's Kingdom where He has placed you?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What ways did God bless His people in exile?
- What are some ways that God has blessed you?
- How is your school kind of like Babylon?
- How did Daniel and his friends stand up for God?
- When is a time that you have stood up for God?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could have one super power what would it be and why?

READ DANIEL 2:11-45

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the king want and how did the people respond?
- What did the king do to wise men?
- How did Daniel respond to the decree?
- What did Daniel get his friends to do?
- What did Daniel know about God?
- How did God use Daniel before the king?
- What did his dream mean?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How often do you turn to prayer when you are in distress?
- Do you go to prayer first or last? Why?
- What was the king's dream actually pointing to?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When are the times you are most likely to go to God in prayer?
- How often do you try and do things in your own power first? Why?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is the last time you remember being really scared? What did you do?

READ DANIEL 5:1-31

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the king do? What was he using?
- What happened during the feast?
- How did the king respond?
- Who did he bring in to help him? Could they help?
- What does Daniel do for the king?
- Why did all this happen?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why were they not supposed to use the things from the temple to eat and drink out of?
- Why did Daniel turn down the rewards of the king?
- When is a time that you praised others but not the Lord?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways the Lord has been trying to get your attention lately?
- What was the prophecy given to the king? Why?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

34

**GOD WORKS THROUGH
HIS PEOPLE IN THE EXILE
PART 2: ESTHER**

EXILE

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God was working in and through His people
even during the exile

ESTHER

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings and then uses Solomon to build the temple where all can come and hear about His Kingdom
- Most of the kings turn out to be wicked and lead the people away from God
- God chooses to speak to His people through the prophets to counteract the kings
- God continually warned His people and told them that if they continued to worship other gods that He would send them into exile and He does

OUTLINE

- I. **God's people have been taken into exile**
 - A. Some entered into the society and some did not
 - B. Many hid the fact that they were Jews
- II. **Esther becomes queen of Persia—Esther 1 and 2**
 - A. She was brought over during the exile
 1. Had no father or mother so was being raised by her cousin Mordecai
 - B. The king became angry with her behavior at the banquet and sent her away
 1. She would not come to him when she was summoned
 - C. The king began to search for a new queen
 1. Had all the beautiful young women in the land brought to him
 2. Esther was one of the women chosen but she did not reveal that she was a Jew
 3. Esther had won favor with all those she was around and the king fell in love with her and made her queen

III. The plot against the Jews—Esther 3

- A. King put Haman in charge of all the officials
 - 1. All the king's servants bowed down to Haman when he passed
 - 2. Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage because he was a Jew and only bowed for the Lord
 - 3. Haman became very angry with Mordecai
- B. The plan
 - 1. Haman decided to destroy all the Jews because of Mordecai's actions
 - 2. Went before the king
 - a. Told him there were people in the kingdom who didn't obey the Persian laws
 - b. Asked the king to sign a decree to kill all those who didn't obey the king's commands
 - c. He was even willing to pay the king in order to have this done
 - 3. The king signs it and puts the Jews at odds against the king
 - a. All the Jews would be killed
 - b. The decree was sent to all governors and provinces

IV. Mordecai goes to Esther—Esther 4

- A. All the Jews went into mourning over the decree
 - 1. Tore their clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes
 - 2. Would fast and weep
- B. Esther hears about it and tries to help Mordecai
 - 1. Sends clothes for him so he wouldn't have to wear sackcloth
 - 2. She sends a servant to ask Mordecai what is wrong
- C. Mordecai tells Esther everything
 - 1. What had happened with Haman
 - 2. Gave her a copy of the decree
 - 3. Tells her to go to the king and plead for the Jews
- D. Esther's response
 - 1. If someone goes to the king without being summoned they are killed
- E. Mordecai warns Esther
 - 1. Just because you are living in the king's palace you will not be safe
 - a. You will suffer the fate of the rest of the Jews
 - 2. If you keep silent, God will deliver us some other way and you will perish
 - 3. Who knows, maybe this is why God made you queen in the first place?

- a. God raised you up to deliver His people
 - 4. Esther tells Mordecai to get all the people to fast and pray and in three days she will go to the king
- V. **Esther and the king—Esther 5, 6, 7, 8**
- A. After three days Esther went into the king's presence as she said she would
 - 1. The king showed favor on her and did not have her killed
 - 2. Instead he said he would give her anything she wanted up to half of his kingdom
 - 3. She asked for him and Haman to come to a banquet she was preparing for the next day
 - B. The banquet
 - 1. Haman learns of the banquet and is very honored and excited
 - a. He sees Mordecai and is very angry
 - b. Can't even enjoy the honor he was given
 - c. Has a gallows made (where you hang someone) for Mordecai for the next day
 - 2. The king decides to honor Mordecai
 - a. Because he revealed a plot others had to kill the king
 - b. Tells Haman to go and get him so that he can be honored
 - c. Haman puts robes on Mordecai and leads him through the town praising him
 - i. Haman then goes home because he is so upset
 - 3. Esther reveals Haman's plan
 - a. On second day of feast, the king asks Esther what she would like
 - i. Even up to half of his kingdom
 - b. She asks the king for her life and the life of her people
 - i. Says they have been sold in order to be killed
 - 4. The king's response
 - a. Who would dare to do this?
 - b. Esther tells him it was Haman
 - c. King had Haman hung on the gallows he prepared for Mordecai
 - C. Esther then begs for the lives of the Jews
 - 1. Asks the king to write letters revoking the previous command
 - 2. The king allows Esther to write the edict and it would be sealed with his ring and sent to all then peoples
 - 3. The Jews were saved

VI. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God is using His people even in difficult circumstances
- B. Worked in and through Esther to save all of His people in Persia
 - 1. She had to be brave and trust the Lord

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- Where were God's people?
- What was going to happen to the Jews?
- Who did God use to save them? How?
- What are some places where God has placed you that He may want to use you? How?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How did Esther become queen?
- How did God use some interesting circumstances to make that happen?
- What are some ways that God has used crazy things for your good?
- What was the issue for the Jews? How did God save them?
- How did Mordecai convince Esther to get involved?
- Where is a place that God has placed you perhaps for such a time as this to show them Jesus?
- Who is someone in your life who reminds you to do what is right like Mordecai did for Esther?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you had a very hard choice to make? How did you decide what to do?

READ ESTHER 4:1-17

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- How did Mordecai respond when he found out the decree against the Jews?
- How did the rest of the Jews respond? Why?
- How did Esther find out and what was her response?
- What did Mordecai say to convince her?
- What does Esther decide to do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why would it have been dangerous for Esther to get involved?
- How did Mordecai show his faith in God?
- When have you realized that God has put you somewhere simply so you can witness for Him?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What circumstances has the Lord put you in lately to make Him known? Have you?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is someone you would be very nervous to meet in person? Why?

READ ESTHER 8:1-17

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the king give to Mordecai? Why?
- What did Esther ask of the king?
- What did the king let Esther do?
- How did they save the Jews?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that God has used you for His glory?
- How can you know God's plan and will?
- Why is it difficult to stand up for God at your school?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that God has been seeking to use you lately?
- What are a few ways you could see God using you at school the rest of the year?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

35

GOD'S PEOPLE RETURN FROM EXILE

SECOND TEMPLE

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God fulfilled His promise to bring the people home

EZRA 1, NEHEMIAH 1-2

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings and then uses Solomon to build the temple where all can come and hear about His Kingdom
- Most of the kings turn out to be wicked and lead the people away from God
- God chooses to speak to His people through the prophets to counteract the kings
- God continually warned His people and told them that if they continued to worship other gods that He would send them into exile and He does

OUTLINE

- I. **God had promised that He would bring Judah back from exile**
 - A. Jeremiah 25:11-14, 32, 36-38
- II. **God is working through human events to accomplish His purposes**
 - A. Persia defeats Assyria
 1. There is a new nation in charge of God's people
 - B. God works in the heart of the king
 1. Allows the Israelites to return home
 2. Believes the Lord has charged him to rebuild the temple
 - a. Sends the people with supplies to accomplish it

3. Even gave them what was taken out of the temple when Jerusalem was taken
- C. The people are allowed to return home
1. After 70 years in captivity
 - a. Jeremiah 29:10
 2. Almost 50,000 people as well as over 8,000 livestock made the journey home
- III. What the people found when they returned home
- A. The walls of Jerusalem are broken down
- B. The gates are destroyed by fire
1. This made it unsafe to live in
 2. People could simply come into the city and attack and plunder
 3. Had no defenses
- C. The temple was also destroyed
1. No place for the people to worship the Lord
- D. The people were very sad and had little hope
- IV. What did God do about it?
- A. Sent leaders to help the people
1. Nehemiah
 - a. Pleaded with the king to return and help
 - b. Was allowed to return with the king's blessing and access the king's forests for wood
 - c. Had a plan to rebuild the wall with the people
 2. Ezra
 - a. Was a scribe and teacher
 - b. Came to help rebuild the temple and lead the people in worship
- B. Wanted to restore the hope of the people
- C. Wanted to restore the city and the temple to their original purposes
1. To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
 2. Be a place where people from all over came to worship

V. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God kept His promise to His people by bringing them back home
 - 1. God worked through human events to do this
- B. God was preparing them to restore the temple and city for His glory

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- How did God send His people back?
- How has God used interesting circumstances in your life?
- How did God give the people hope once they returned?
- How do you have hope when things seem bad?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What was God doing for His people in exile?
- How do you see God using people and circumstances around you for His purposes and your good?
- How did the people feel when they returned home?
- When is a time when you felt really sad and hopeless? What did you do?
- Why did God bring them home?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who in your life do you think really doesn't know Jesus and that God just couldn't use? Why?

READ 2 CHRONICLES 36:20-23

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened to the Israelites?
- How had God predicted it?
- Who was the king of Persia?
- Why do we switch to Persia all of a sudden?
- Why did Cyrus make a proclamation?
- What does he tell the people to do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are your thoughts on the fact that God had predicted a certain amount of time in exile and stuck to it?
- Do you believe that God is using all things to fulfill His good plan for you?
- Why did God use Cyrus for this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Is there someone who you'd be shocked to see God use? Why?
- What is something you have wanted the Lord to do but just have a hard time believing that He will do it anymore?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When was the last time you really cried? Why did you?

READ NEHEMIAH 1

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who was asking about the Jews and what did he find out?
- How did Nehemiah respond?
- What did he pray to the Lord?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why was the wall being down such a big deal?
- How do you respond when you hear of injustice around the world?
- What was Nehemiah hoping to do? Why would it be difficult for him to do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are things you have heard about recently that have really grieved you? Why?
- How often do you pray for the Lord to use you in the situations that grieve you?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

36

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

SECOND TEMPLE

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God used His people once they returned home
to rebuild His house for worship

EZRA 3-6

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings and then uses Solomon to build the temple where all can come and hear about His Kingdom
- Most of the kings turn out to be wicked and lead the people away from God
- God chooses to speak to His people through the prophets to counteract the kings
- God continually warned His people and told them that if they continued to worship other gods that He would send them into exile and He does
- God then returns His people back to the Promised Land as He said He would

OUTLINE

- I. **Cyrus released the people in order to rebuild the temple**
 - A. Believed the Lord had called him to do it—Ezra 1:2
 - B. Gave them what they would need to rebuild it
 - C. Even gave them what was taken from the Temple when captives were taken
- II. **The people repair the altar- Ezra 3:1-7**
 - A. So the people could worship the Lord
 - B. To offer burnt offerings
 1. As was written in the Law of Moses
 - C. Out of fear of the people in the land
 - D. In the place where it was in the old Temple
- III. **The people rebuild the Temple- Ezra 3:8-13**

- A. Two years into them returning from exile
- B. Appointed the Levites to supervise the work
 - 1. They were the priests in the temple before
- C. The people laid the foundation for the new temple
 - 1. Where the temple was before
 - 2. Once the foundation was laid the people celebrate and worship
 - a. Priests and Levites came with instruments
 - i. As David had instructed them
 - b. Sang to the Lord and gave thanks
 - i. For He is good for His steadfast love endures forever toward Israel
 - c. All the people shouted with a great shout
 - d. The older people wept when comparing it to the old temple
 - e. People heard the sounds from far away
 - i. The people in the land were hearing about God from His people
 - ii. They were fulfilling their purpose in spreading God's Kingdom

IV. There was much opposition to the building- Ezra 4:1-5:12

- A. People from the land wanted the people to stop
 - 1. They at first acted like they wanted to help
 - 2. Then they made people afraid to build
 - 3. They bribed counselors to frustrate their purposes
 - 4. Made it difficult for them during the reigns of three different kings
- B. In the end, God prevails
 - 1. The work on the temple continues
 - 2. Uses King Darius to make it happen
 - a. Makes a decree that the work should continue until the Temple is completed

V. The Temple is finished- Ezra 6:13-22

- A. With encouragement from God's prophets
 - 1. Haggai and Zechariah
- B. Because God decreed that it would happen
 - 1. Used three different kings of Persia
- C. They dedicate the temple
 - 1. With great joy

2. With many offerings
 - a. 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs and 12 goats
 3. Set the priests and Levites in their divisions so they could lead the people in worship
- D. They celebrate the Passover
1. They didn't observe it while in exile
 2. Not just for the Israelites
 - a. All who joined God's people and separated themselves from the uncleanness of the people
 - b. Allowed to worship the Lord
 - c. Picture of what God had intended
 - i. His Kingdom includes not just His people but also others who have heard about Him from His people
- E. God's house is finished and ready for people to come and worship and hear about Him
1. One main difference between this Temple and the original one
 2. God's Spirit does not return
 - a. His Spirit no longer fills the Temple

VI. SO WHAT?!!

- A. God worked through many circumstances for His people to return and rebuild the Temple
 1. No matter the opposition against them by the people
- B. God would again have a place where people could come and find out who He truly is

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the people do once they returned home?
- How did God help them to do that?
- What was the people's response to the temple being finished?
- When is a time that you celebrated with worship like this?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Why was it important for the people to rebuild the Temple?
- What attempted to get in the way of their work?
- What things try to get in the way of you as you worship the Lord?
- How did God ensure that the Temple would be finished?
- How did the people respond to the Temple's completion?
- What role does the church and worship play in your everyday life?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you tried to argue your way out of having to do something? How well did it work?

READ EZRA 5:6-6:12

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did Tattenai send in a letter to the king?
- Why were they trying to figure out who decreed that they could build the temple?
- What did the people say when they were asked this question?
- What did Darius say in his decree?
- How did it validate what the people had said?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How would you react if someone tried to keep you from serving the Lord?
- How was God working through all of this?
- How did this actually help the effort to build the temple?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you have faced opposition as you have sought to follow the Lord?
- Where is a place that the Lord is asking you to trust Him right now?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is your favorite teacher that you have ever had? What made them so special to you?

READ EZRA 7:1-20

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What are we told about Ezra here?
- Who came back with Ezra?
- What does it mean that the hand of the Lord was on him?
- What did Ezra set in his heart to do?
- What did the king's letter allow?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What would it look like for the hand of the Lord to be upon someone?
- How are you currently studying the Law of the Lord?
- How are you currently doing the Law of the Lord?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time that you have seen or believed that the hand of the Lord was on you or someone else? Why?
- How would your life look different if you truly studied God's Word? Obeyed God's Word? Taught others God's Word? What is getting in the way of those things?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK
37

REBUILDING THE WALL

SECOND TEMPLE

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God used His people once they returned home to rebuild His city
and the people's relationship with Him

NEHEMIAH 2, 3, 4, 6, 8

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings and then uses Solomon to build the temple where all can come and hear about His Kingdom
- Most of the kings turn out to be wicked and lead the people away from God
- God chooses to speak to His people through the prophets to counteract the kings
- God continually warned His people and told them that if they continued to worship other gods that He would send them into exile and He does
- God then returns His people back to the Promised Land as He said He would
- The people first rebuild the Temple so they can worship the Lord and so others can come and hear about Him

OUTLINE

- I. Nehemiah's desire—Nehemiah 1 and 2
 - A. He hears about what has happened in Jerusalem
 1. The wall is still down
 2. The people are no longer safe
 3. He is very sad and desires to help
 - B. The King sends him to Jerusalem
 1. With his blessing and with the supplies necessary to rebuild the wall
 2. Gave him letters so those living in the land will allow them to build
 - C. He goes and inspects the wall
 1. Sees the wall has been broken down
 2. Sees that the gates had been destroyed by fire
 3. Realizes the trouble they are in
 4. Convinces the people to help him rebuild the walls

II. Opposition to the work–Nehemiah 4

- A. When the people in the land heard about it they try and stop the work
 - 1. Try to intimidate the people
 - 2. Even their fellow Jews who lived just outside the wall try and get them to stop working and leave
 - 3. People began to attack the people as they did their work
 - a. Nehemiah had a plan
 - i. Everyone worked with their weapons also
 - ii. Worked with one hand and were ready to fight with another
 - iii. Had a person with a trumpet to declare when they were under attack
 - iv. When the trumpet blew all people would rally to that point and fight
 - v. "Our God will fight for us"
- B. God continues to take care of the people and the work continues
 - 1. Nothing can thwart God's plan

III. The wall is completed–Nehemiah 6:18:7:4

- A. They finished the whole wall in only 52 days
 - 1. Done very quickly
- B. All the nations were afraid
 - 1. Knew that God was with them in their work
 - 2. The rebuilding of the wall was making God's Name great
 - a. Spread His glorious Kingdom

IV. The people rebuild their relationship with God

- A. Nehemiah 8:1-18
 - 1. Ezra read the Law to all of the people
 - 2. Declared the Day as holy and for them all to worship the Lord
 - 3. They celebrate the Feast of Booths as Moses had commanded them
 - a. Not just hearing the word but doing what it says
 - b. What the Lord had always asked of them
- B. Nehemiah 9:26-31, 28
 - 1. The people are reminded of how they and their ancestors disobeyed the Lord and His commands
 - 2. The people respond by making a new covenant with the Lord
 - a. In writing
 - b. With names of all those making the covenant on it

V. How the Old Testament ends

- A. God's people have now returned to take their rightful place to spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- B. Last book of the Old Testament–Malachi
 - 1. God's people are still struggling with their sin

- a. Malachi 3:6-18
 - i. Malachi recounts what the people had done in the past and how they still struggle
2. It ends with a promise and silence
 - a. Malachi 3:1
 - i. God promises to send a messenger that will prepare the way
 - ii. The messenger of the covenant is coming
 - iii. God will send the One who will fulfill all of the Old Testament
 - b. After Malachi, there are 400 years of silence
 - i. Next words we hear from God are the cries of baby Jesus

VI. SO WHAT?!!

- A. God worked through many circumstances for His people to return and rebuild the Temple
 1. No matter the opposition against them by the people
- B. God would again have a place where people could come and find out who He truly is

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- Why was it important for them to rebuild the wall?
- How did God work to ensure that the wall was completed?
- How did the people respond when the wall was finished?
- How does the Old Testament end?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Why was it important for the people to rebuild the wall?
- How does God help His people to make sure the wall gets built?
- How do you respond to those who oppose you when you seek to do the Lord's will?
- How did the people seek to rebuild their relationship with the Lord?
- How are you reminded of what you are supposed to do to follow God?
- How does the Old Testament point us to Jesus?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you were treated unfairly? How did you respond? What about a time when you treated someone else unfairly?

READ NEHEMIAH 5:1-19

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What complaint goes up to Nehemiah?
- What were the people doing to each other?
- How did Nehemiah feel about this?
- What did Nehemiah do and say to the people?
- How did the people respond?
- How did Nehemiah live this out amongst the people?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What was unfair about how the people were treating each other?
- How was Nehemiah very generous to the people?
- What is a way that you can also give generously to those in need?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How have you seen people treat each other unfairly? What have you done about it?
- What is something or someone God is putting on your heart in regards to this? What will you do?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is the last time you remember being really excited about something? How did you respond?

READ NEHEMIAH 8:1-12

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the people gather for?
- What did Ezra do for them?
- How did the people respond to it? How long did he read it to them?
- What did Nehemiah say about this day?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When have you wanted to hear God's Word this much?
- Why do you think the people wept at the hearing of God's Word?
- When is the last time you truly rejoiced at the hearing of God's Word?
- Who are the people in your life that are sharing God's Word with you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What is your usual attitude about God's Word? Especially as it is read and taught to you?
- When is a time that God's Word came alive in you like it did here?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

38

JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

PURPOSE

God does all things in order to spread His glorious Kingdom
to the ends of the Earth

WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how Jesus is the One who fulfills all that was required
by God in the Old Testament

CONTEXT

- God created the Earth and all that is in it in order for man to live and then created man in His own image to reflect, represent and multiply Him
- Sin enters the world and cuts off relationship with God but God has a plan to take away our sin both now (skins) and forever (Redeemer) and even as sin increases it can't thwart God's plan
- God makes a covenant with Abraham that God will be with him and make him a great nation and fulfills it with his offspring
- God then gives His people the Law so that they may know how to have relationship with Him
- God leads His people to the Promised Land with specific instructions to devote everything to destruction so that the people and things don't tempt them to worship other gods
- The people continue to disobey the Lord and He gives them different leaders to help them which leads the people to reject God as king and want a king like the rest of the nations
- God warned them about what would happen if they had a king but gave them one anyway
- God establishes David and his line to be the kings and then uses Solomon to build the temple where all can come and hear about His Kingdom
- Most of the kings turn out to be wicked and lead the people away from God
- God chooses to speak to His people through the prophets to counteract the kings
- God continually warned His people and told them that if they continued to worship other gods that He would send them into exile and He does
- God then returns His people back to the Promised Land as He said He would and has them rebuild the Temple and the wall around Jerusalem
- The Old Testament ends with a promise and silence

OUTLINE

- I. **Jesus is the fulfillment of what God began in the Old Testament**
 - A. Creation
 1. People were created in the image of God to represent Him
 - a. Genesis 1:26
 2. Now God Himself comes to show us how to live
 - a. John 1:14
 - B. Sin
 1. Entered the world through Adam's disobedience
 - a. Genesis 3, Romans 5:12
 2. Jesus comes to make all the sad things untrue
 - a. Romans 5:18-19
 - C. God's Plan

1. To bless the nations and spread His glorious Kingdom
 - a. Genesis 12:3
 2. Jesus is the fulfillment as Son of Abraham
 - a. Matthew 1:1, 17
- D. God's People
1. Israel's was God's imperfect son
 - a. Exodus 4:22
 2. Jesus is God's perfect Son
 - a. Matthew 3:17
- E. God's King
1. King was called God's son
 - a. 2 Samuel 7:14
 2. Jesus is anointed as true King and Messiah
 - a. Matthew 3:16
- F. God's Law
1. Given to people by Moses
 - a. Exodus 19:20
 2. Given to people by Jesus
 - a. Matthew 5
- G. God's Presence
1. In Tabernacle and Temple
 - a. Exodus 40:34-35
 2. In Jesus
 - a. John 1:14
- H. God's Covenant with His people
1. Through the law
 - a. Exodus 20
 2. Through Jesus
 - a. Hebrews 8:8-12
- I. God's Atonement
1. Forgiveness came through sacrifices

- a. Exodus 19:20
 2. Jesus is the only sacrifice needed- He is the perfect Lamb of God
 - a. John 1:29
 - J. God's Mission
 1. Hasn't changed
 2. Matthew 28:18-20
 3. TO SPREAD GOD'S GLORIOUS KINGDOM TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
- II. SO WHAT??!
- A. God worked through many circumstances for His people to return and rebuild the Temple
 1. No matter the opposition against them by the people
 - B. God would again have a place where people could come and find out who He truly is

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- How does Jesus fulfill the Old Testament?
- How do you see God using all of the Old Testament to point us to Jesus?
- What stuck out to you from studying the Old Testament this year?
- How can you spread God's glorious Kingdom in your daily life?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What stuck out to you most from studying the Old Testament this year?
- How has your view of God changed by studying Him in the Old Testament?
- What would it look like for you to live out God's mission for you?
- How will you start to spread God's glorious Kingdom?
- In what area of life do you need to return and follow Him as you once did?
- How do you see God still advancing His glorious Kingdom through this?

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could be king of the world for a day, what laws would you make everyone obey?

READ MATTHEW 5:17-20

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus say about the Law?
- What does He mean by that?
- What does Jesus say about those who don't follow the commandments?
- What does Jesus say about those who obey God's commands?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does Jesus fulfill the Law?
- What does verse 18 mean?
- How do you typically treat God's commands?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How do you typically think about Jesus in regards to the Old Testament? Do you see them as connected at all?
- How does Jesus actually accomplish the Law?
- How do we get righteousness?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose 1 person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What has been your favorite part of studying the Old Testament? What will you remember most?

READ HEBREWS 9:11-22

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did it say that Christ appeared as?
- What did the High Priest do?
- What is Jesus a greater and more perfect version of?
- Where did Jesus enter for our sakes?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What tent was the author of Hebrews referring to?
- How is Jesus' sacrifice better than animal sacrifices?
- What does it mean that Jesus is our mediator?
- What role does blood play in forgiveness?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that Jesus fulfills the Old Testament law?
- How does this passage make you rethink the importance of the Old Testament?
- How should you live differently because of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)



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