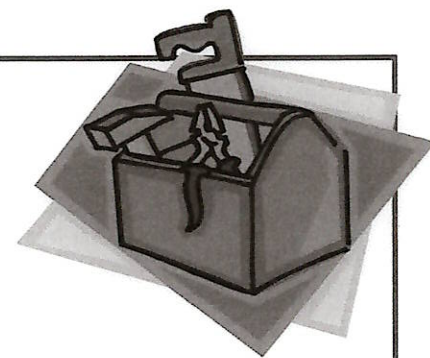


Lesson 5

Ezekiel Warns the People



Theme: Righteous judgment — God's punishment and forgiveness

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Nail Down the Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Make or purchase heavy card stock footprints, both right and left. Print each word of the Memory Verse on a footprint, alternating right and left. Arrange the footprints in order to make a trail, so that a student can step on the words and say them. Have students walk the trail and say the Memory Verse. Since you are introducing a new Memory Verse, have them walk the trail and say the verse a few times. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Talk about Who? What? When? and Where? in connection with the verse.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Ezekiel 18:2, 30-32; Ezekiel 37:1-14. Have reading students find and mark Ezekiel 18:2 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by asking a student to show Jerusalem on a map.
5. Introduce Lesson Graphics using the "Build Your Life for God Tool Apron" as described on page 8 of this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Building Your Life for God Lesson Graphics* and other props such as an iron skillet, army men, plain wood blocks of appropriate shapes for ramps and logs, plastic bones and a plastic or wooden skeleton.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to your age group:
 - Ezekiel was God's prophet who used acting, props, writing, and drawing to tell and show God's laws and messages to His people.
 - Ezekiel used visuals to demonstrate the attack of Jerusalem as punishment from God.

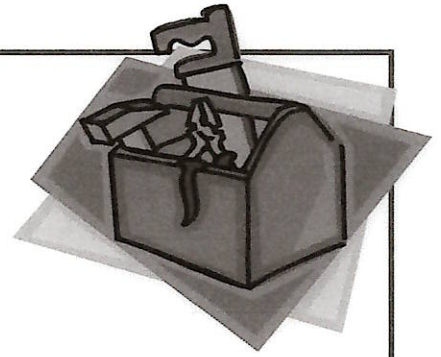
- Ezekiel saw a vision of God's glory leaving the temple because God's people would not turn back to Him.
 - Ezekiel prophesied to the people about God's punishing them and about God's saving them.
 - God put dry bones back together and brought them back to life to show Ezekiel how God would bring His people together and back to their homeland.
 - Each person is responsible for his own actions and sins.
 - Ezekiel saw a vision of God's glory returning to the temple.
8. Load the "Build Your Life for God Tool Apron" with graphics, army men, small wooden ramps (such as doorstops), and sticks for logs. Show how Ezekiel used these items to teach his message (Ezekiel 4:1-8). Discuss how God's glory left the temple because people would not listen to His prophets. Show how later the glory of God returned to the temple. Read aloud together Ezekiel 18:23, 30-32 and discuss each individual's accountability before God.
- Allow students to use the props to retell and act out the story. This is a way to evaluate the students' learning, to correct any errors, and to reinforce the lesson.
9. Play "Riveting Riddles" with added riddles and names.

**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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Lesson 5

Ezekiel Warns the People



Theme: Righteous judgment — God’s punishment and forgiveness

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Nail Down the Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Using the footprints from Sunday, place them in a trail but pull out several key words, scattering the missing words around on the floor. Have students work together to place the footprints in the correct order to complete the trail. Have students walk the trail and say the verse. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse.

Prayer

Starter

We usually understand a story or lesson better if we see as well as hear it. This is why teachers often use “visuals” to reinforce their lessons. God knows the value of seeing and hearing, so He told Ezekiel to use visuals in speaking his message.

A part of Ezekiel’s message was about forgiveness. God knows people need forgiveness. He is willing to forgive when people turn to Him. Ezekiel, like all the prophets, tried to get people to turn to God. Let’s see how Ezekiel taught his lessons to the people of Israel.

Illustrations and Applications

- ☀ 1. **Objective:** *To illustrate the sour grapes proverb and discuss its meaning*

Have a piece of extremely sour candy for each student. Explain that you will ask everyone to unwrap the piece of candy and put it in his or her mouth for just a few moments. Have a trash can or other container ready to dispose of the candy from students who do not want it. Once all students experience the “sour” taste, talk about the proverb. Explain that a son ate the sour grapes, but the parent’s mouth puckered up. Help students understand the point that one person took an action while another person suffered the consequences. Discuss how God did not want His people to use the proverb again, because it isn’t correct. Talk about individual accountability before God.

- ☀ 2. **Objective:** *Illustrate the story of the dry bones coming to life*

Purchase two skeletons, or make them from poster board. Collapse one skeleton and conceal it in a bag that you set on the classroom floor. Disassemble the other skeleton or cut out bones

from poster board and scatter them all around the room to recreate the desolate valley of dry bones. Read Ezekiel 37:1-14 or retell the story in detail. At the appropriate time in telling the lesson, have students pick up bones and place them in the sack. Once the bones are collected and placed in the sack, raise the collapsed skeleton out of the sack, as if it is coming to life. Discuss how Ezekiel must have felt when the bones started rattling and eventually came to life. Talk about how God gave life to Israel after captivity.

3. *Objective: Provide students an opportunity to develop visuals for a lesson*

Divide the students into two groups. Give each group some pencils, paper, toothpicks, a glue stick, some pieces of aluminum foil, and a small container with a lid. Instruct each group to prepare a demonstration to use in teaching. Have one group make a demonstration of God's glory leaving the temple. Have the other group make a demonstration of God's glory returning to the temple. Allow each group to make their presentation. After the presentations, talk with the students about why God's glory left the temple and why He was willing for it to return. Make application to sin separating us from God and forgiveness bringing us to God.

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Create a visual for teaching the gospel. Print on cards the words Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Baptized. Lead students to accounts in Acts that describe conversions, such as the Ethiopian in Acts 8. After the teacher reads or retells the accounts, have students place the cards in the same order as the actions occurred.

*Ask for
forgiveness*

**Building
Block Ideas**

*Try not
to sin*

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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