

# BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of January 21, 2018

**Timeless Truth:** The Lord's Plan Always Comes Through

**Bible Basis:** Jeremiah 1:4-10, 2:21-28, 5:1-2, 13:17-19; 2 Chronicles 36:11-16; 2 Kings 25:1-2; Lamentations 1:1, 2:17, 3:21-26, 5:1 and 15-21; Ezekiel 1:1-2:7, 36:22-36

**The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:**

**Chapter 17** The Kingdom's Fall

**Memory Verse:** I say to myself, "The Lord is everything I will ever need. So I will put my hope in him." Lamentations 3:24



## TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

**God told the people in Judah and Israel many times to not worship idols. He sent prophets who warned them about what would happen. So the people turned from their wicked ways and worshiped God, right? Wrong!**

- What did the people really do?
- God's people got in big trouble. Do you think that was fair?
- Have you ever done something that you were told not to? What happened?
- We've all heard the saying, "Like father, like son." In this chapter of The Story, it's as if the kings *tried* to be the opposite of their parents. It was "like father, NOT like son." Why do you think that happened?
- What are some ways that you're like your parents? (Parent, share about similarities with their parents.) be sure to talk about some positive attributes and some negative.
- Why do some people work hard at not following the positive character qualities of their parents?

## EXTRA MILE

God opened up the heavens and gave the prophet Ezekiel amazing visions. Gather your family around a table. Make sure to have an assortment of paper, crayons, colored pencils, and other drawing utensils. Read all of Ezekiel 1 out loud. When you've finished, take some time to draw the creatures that he described. You can even draw the scene with the heavenly sapphire throne and glowing metal figure (Ezekiel 1:26-28). Have fun looking at each other's art work. Ask:

- Is it possible to describe God, heavenly creatures or heaven with words?
- What do these creatures say about the creativity of God? Can't you just picture these creatures in a movie or comic book?
- These creatures are called cherubim. God specially made them for a purpose. Think about other things that God made that might look weird but have a special purpose. What about ears? Pinkie toes?

**When you've finished talking, read more about this scene in Ezekiel 10. Make any additions or changes to your illustrations that you want. Hang the final products on the refrigerator for a week to remind your family of God's power and creativity.**

## PRAYER TIME

Dear God, thank you so much for sending Jesus as our Savior. Even though we continue to mess things up, you still love us with an amazing love. Forgive us when we give in to temptation, and reminds us that your love never fades. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



# The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

## DAY 1

**Reading:** *Last Chance*, pg 123 – through break on pg 126 (blue–pg 138 – break at bottom of pg 141) (5 mins)

This reading covers: Jeremiah 1-2, 5, 13

**Summary:** Jeremiah tells God’s people this is their last chance to turn back to God.

**Do together:** Using a timer or the second-hand of a clock, have the leader say “go” and then keep track of 10 seconds. Have the others close their eyes and raise their hands when they think 10 seconds have gone by. The leader should say “stop” when 10 seconds has passed. See who can get closest to 10 seconds without going over. To make the game harder, keep increasing the amount of time that goes by (30 seconds, 1 minute, etc.).

**Think about:** How close did you get to the correct time? What happened when you waited too long to raise your hand? Time was running out for God’s people to choose to follow him. They were in danger of waiting too long. If they didn’t change now, God’s punishment would follow. As you live day-to-day, don’t wait to do the right thing. Act now, so you don’t miss your opportunity.

Also read: Joshua 24:14-15; Hebrews 3:12-15

**Prayer:** Dear God, today is the day I want to choose you. Right now is the time for me to do the right thing. Help me to follow you. I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## DAY 2

**Reading:** *Sadness*, break on bottom of pg 126 – through break in middle of pg 130 (blue- bottom of pg 141 – bottom of pg 145) (5 min)

This reading covers: 2 Chronicles 36; 2 Kings 25; Lamentations

**Summary:** Jeremiah’s heart is sad as he reflects on God’s judgement of his people.

**Do together:** With crayons and paper, draw what sad looks like. That might sound unusual, but what colors would show sad? What do people look like when they are sad? How would you draw the sky, or trees, or flower to make them look sad?

**Think about:** We don’t like to think about sad things. God’s messenger Jeremiah was sad because God’s people were being punished for not following him. God was sad, too, because he wanted his people to follow him and love him more than anything else.

Also read: John 11:33-36

**Prayer:** Dear God, it must really make you sad when I don’t follow you or obey you. Your heart must hurt when I go my own way. I know this is true because you love me so much and want the best for me. Help me stay close to you. In Jesus’

## DAY 3

**Reading:** *Tell It*—middle of pg 130 - end (blue – bottom of pg 145- end) (6 mins)

This reading covers: Ezekiel 1-2, 35

**Summary:** Ezekiel is told to bring God’s message to the people, whether they listen or not.

**Do together:** Gather the family around the table. Give everyone paper and pencil. Choose one person to be the leader. Take the leader out of the room and give him/her a set of instructions that s/he will tell the rest of the family to follow (draw a box, put an “x” inside the box, write your name on the paper, etc.). Before the leader returns to the room, tell the rest of the family not to pay attention to the leader and to draw or write whatever they want.

**Think about:** How did the leader feel when no one was listening to him/her or following the instructions? Now what if the instructions you had were from God and no one was listening? God gave Ezekiel, one of his messengers, a hard job to do. He was supposed to tell people about God, but God knew they wouldn’t listen. It didn’t matter. Ezekiel did what God told him to do.

Read also: John 6:66-69

**Prayer:** Dear God, I want to be like Ezekiel and do what you want me to do, no matter what. I want to follow you, even if other people don’t. In Jesus’ name. Amen.