

Clearing Up the Confusion Script

Characters: Three friends: Jordan, Allie, and Gabe approach their friend Blair to find answers.

Blair is already on stage when the others arrive, looking sad and confused.

Blair: What's wrong with all of you?

Jordan: We're just very confused about God.

Blair: What do you mean?

Allie: We were reading something in Second Chronicles about how God used the Babylonians to punish Judah. The Babylonians were evil, wicked, mean people. They totally devastated Jerusalem and the Temple of God, too.

Jordan: They *killed* the people of Judah and carried the survivors away to be slaves!

Gabe: How could God allow all that to happen to His people and to His Temple? We thought God loved His people. Why would He allow those bad things to happen? We are really confused.

Blair: That was horrible for Judah, you are right. But did you read what happened in Judah before the Babylonians invaded?

The three friends look at each other.

Gabe: I think we read it. I'm not sure.

Blair: Well, the kings of Judah had turned away from God completely. They were worshipping false gods. They had rebelled against God.

Allie: Oh, yeah. I do remember that. Most of the kings of Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Blair: That's right. And what did God do for His people while they were rebelling and sinning against Him?

Jordan: Well, didn't He send some prophets?

Gabe: Oh yeah! Isaiah and Jeremiah spoke the words of the Lord and warned them to turn back to God!

Blair: Right. Did the people listen to the prophets?

Allie: No. They didn't listen. They just kept doing evil in God's eyes.

Blair: That's right. What do we call it when God tells us to do something and we don't?

Gabe: Rebellion. Sin.

Blair: Yes! The people rebelled against God for hundreds of years.

Gabe: Well, I know that I can be rebellious and sinful! And I don't like it. And I'm pretty sure God doesn't like it, either.

Blair: Oh, I see. You like thinking about a God who loves everybody.

Gabe: Yep. And it kind of scares me to think about what God does to people who disobey Him.

Allie: I'm with Gabe on this. I don't like to think about God like that. I don't see how He can be both—you know, loving and mean.

Blair: A lot of people are confused about who God is. First of all, God isn't mean. He is just. And a lot of people want God to be all about love and never about His justice. But we can't make God what we want Him to be. We need to know God through His Word. Reading the Bible is very important to understanding who God is.

Gabe: We do read the Bible!

Blair: Yes, you do. And that's where we have to go.

Jordan: So, it was OK for God to use the wicked nation of Babylon to destroy Judah and His Temple.

Blair: Right.

Gabe: But wasn't that mean?

Blair: Mean? That would be saying God is unkind and cruel. God is neither of those. Let me ask you this. Why did God destroy Judah?

Allie: The people were doing evil things. They were worshipping idols.

Gabe: And God did send His prophets to warn them to turn back to Him over hundreds of years.

Blair: What does THAT say about God?

Jordan: That God is patient. He didn't wipe them out right away. He gave them a chance.

Blair: And?

Allie: And He gave them fair warning of what would happen to them if they didn't obey and change their ways.

Gabe: I get that. But it still seems really mean to wipe out Judah the way He did.

Blair: Well, I'll do my best to explain. You see, God is holy, which means He hates sin.

Gabe: I've heard that God is holy. I guess I didn't really know that it means God hates sin!

Blair: Yes. He is perfect! He is pure. He hates all sin. And He is also just. That means He must punish sin. The people of Judah kept sinning year after year. And finally, He had to punish them. But remember, He gave them plenty of warnings.

Jordan: So, we are saying that God is patient, but because He is holy, He must be just and punish sin. I think I get it.

Allie: Yeah. God isn't mean! He has to punish sin. And that is the right thing to do!

Gabe: It didn't sound right to say God was mean—but I didn't know how to explain it.

Allie: He is an awesome God!

Blair: He really is awesome. And we all need to remember we can't make God into something we want Him to be. He is who He is. And the only way we can know Him is to read His Word and see what He has done.

Jordan: And God doesn't change either!

Allie: That's right. He is immutable!

Gabe: So, doesn't that mean He has to punish me for my sins? I disobey a lot.

Blair: Yes He does. But Gabe, remember, Jesus died on the Cross so that whoever believes in Him would be forgiven.

Allie: Yeah. We have to admit we sin before God, repent of our sin against God, and accept the forgiveness God offers through Jesus! That's the gospel. That's the good news from the Bible!

Blair: That's right. And that is how God showed His mercy and love in a HUGE way to us. Jesus died on the Cross. He didn't deserve to die. Jesus never sinned. But God wanted to make a way for us to be forgiven and get to heaven.

Gabe: We have a lot to think about and a lot more studying to do.

Allie: Let's go! Bye Blair. Thanks for helping us! See you Sunday!

Friends and Blair exit in opposite directions.