

God Judges Israel



Key Passages

- 2 Kings 17:5, 17:7, 17:9, 17:12

Lesson Focus

- We should worship God alone!

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color a picture of Hosea and Gomer as a review of last week's lesson and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear how God judged the people of Israel for their sins.

Song—Students will have fun singing songs to help them remember that God loves them. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Hot Potato Review

Students will pass a small ball around the circle while singing songs. When the teacher stops singing, the child holding the ball will answer a review question.



Activity 2: God Sent Assyria

Students will review the Assyrian takeover by "acting out" a song as they learn it.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse by holding the Memory Verse Flashcards in the proper order.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Print one Hosea and Gomer Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Hosea and Gomer Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough if appropriate
- Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- Bring a small statue for your use during the lesson.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Small statue to illustrate an idol



HOT POTATO REVIEW

- Print one Hot Potato Review Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- Hot Potato Review Questions
- Small soft ball



GOD SENT ASSYRIA

- Print one God Sent Assyria Activity Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- God Sent Assyria Activity Sheet



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- Print and cut apart one copy of the Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for review
- Snacks



Prepare to share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

God warned the people that judgment would come (2 Kings 17:13–18). He spoke through His prophets Hosea, Amos, and others. The time had come. Israel was about to be wiped out as a nation and the people carried away into captivity for their unwillingness to turn from their sin and trust in God.

The 10 tribes of Israel suffered as a result of the wicked kings who led the people to idol worship away from the true God. The suffering was a result of spiritual famine. They had gotten to the place where only a small remnant remained committed to honoring God. The others feasted on their selfish lusts and made their offerings and sacrifices to false gods.

Over time, the leaders did not cling to the truth of the Creator God who alone was to be worshipped. Politics and power became the driving force, and alliances were made with the surrounding nations. In disobedience and rebellion, they turned from the One who had brought them out of Egypt. Worship had been corrupted, and even the priests of God were participating in idol worship. Rather than a sweet-smelling aroma (Philippians 4:18), the worship of the people was a stench in the nostrils of God. In fact, Israel looked a lot like many Western countries today.

God was patient for 250 years, sending many prophets to warn Israel and Judah. But after years of consistent rebellion, idolatry, sin, and hostility toward God, His anger was finally provoked to action, and He judged Israel by removing them from His sight (2 Kings 17:18). The Lord finally rejected Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers (2 Kings 17:20). God sent the powerful nation of Assyria to bring judgment upon the nation that had forsaken Him. The Northern territory would never be fully under the control of Israel again. The Promised Land had been torn from them because of their unfaithfulness.

God proves Himself patient and gracious to all of His followers. We all were once alienated and enemies of God by wicked works. Yet He offered us reconciliation through the death of Jesus Christ. This miracle of salvation presents those who trust in Christ as holy, blameless, and above reproach before our holy God (Colossians 1:21–22).

Just as many perished in Samaria, many more will perish eternally one day because of their sin. The judgment on Israel will pale in comparison with that final

judgment. We are called to be ambassadors on behalf of Christ, imploring people to turn from their sin and trust in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20–21). That is your calling as you teach. The gospel is the only truth that can save. It is the only truth that can bring the hope and peace we all seek.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

As the capital of Israel, Samaria was the site of the final showdown between Assyria and the Israelites in the North. Shalmaneser V had taken tribute from Hoshea, but Hoshea turned against him to the king of Egypt (2 Kings 17:3–4). Shalmaneser wouldn't stand for that, so he conquered the land of Israel. However, the takeover of Israel's capital, Samaria, took three years. Why so long? As a fortified city, Samaria had its own supply of food and water within the walls. The Assyrians' unglamorous yet effective plan of attack was to set up camp outside the city and wait until the people inside starved or opened the gates.

The siege lasted through the reign of Shalmaneser V, and some believe that he died at the end of the campaign. After the land was fully taken, the Assyrians conducted a campaign of relocation. The Israelites were delivered to the regions of Halah, Habor, Gozan, and the cities of the Medes (2 Kings 17:6). These were regions far to the east in modern-day Iraq, Syria, and Iran. However, many of the poor and non-threatening Jews were left in Israel to work the land.

As the Assyrians conquered more lands, they settled Samaria with the foreigners from those lands (2 Kings 17:24). The new citizens moved in, and with them came their worship of false gods. They did not fear the Lord or know how He demanded to be worshipped (2 Kings 17:25–26). And, as always, this angered God.

In response to God's judgment of sending marauding lions, the foreigners sent for a priest in the hopes they could learn the rituals of the true God and so appease His anger (2 Kings 17:26–27). But God demands nothing short of perfect obedience and worship of Him alone. And although the priest did show them how to worship God, they continued to make gods of their own and put them in the shrines. The worship continued to be blended in perverse ways, and God was not honored (2 Kings 17:28–33). In addition, the Jews intermarried with these foreigners and they became the Samaritans, whom the Jews despised but Jesus reached out to (John 4:1–42).

Here we can see a clear present-day principle to apply from this Old Testament passage: Beware of churches that integrate worship practices from religions around the world. This type of syncretism promotes a false worship of God. This is unacceptable. We are to have no false gods before us. We are to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, our minds, and our souls.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Heavenly Father, this lesson reveals your justice. I must admit that I don't always feel comfortable seeing your wrath displayed in the pages of

Scripture. My "happy ending" would have been one where Israel turned to you in utter repentance and humility. But the Bible isn't a fairy tale. The Bible is true history that reveals the wretchedness of man in relation to you. When I think of the detestable practices that were part of Israel's worship, I marvel that you were patient for 250 years! Of course, they deserved your judgment. And yes, so do I. I don't deserve your grace, but you've shown me grace. You have offered it to me as a free gift. Thank you that I am justified by Jesus's blood and saved from your wrath through Him. Help me to express this truth to my students this week.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color a picture of Hosea and Gomer as review of the last lesson.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, small statue, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Supplication is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of supplication—and ask God for something.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, all things belong to you. I know you give me all things I need. Please give me . . . (insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of supplication.

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Who made you? *God.*
- ? What else did God make? *All things.*
- ? Why did God make you and all things? *For His own glory.*
- ? Can you see God? *No, I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- ? Where is God? *God is everywhere.*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Bible Pass Around

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible.* God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number.* You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Old Testament, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. **We'll start right here.** Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. *When finished with Bible Pass Around you may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it.*

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

So far we have talked about two prophets of God.

- ? Refer to Lesson 2 Flip Chart. Do you remember what his name was? *Amos.*
- ? Refer to Lesson 3 Flip Chart. What was this prophet's name? *Hosea.*

That's right! Both of these prophets have their very own book in the Bible! And God used both of them to warn the people of Israel to stop sinning. Well you know, God was very patient. He gave the Israelites a long time to start obeying again. He didn't punish them right away.

But the people just wouldn't stop sinning! God is just, and He must punish sin! Amos told the people that God was going to punish them

for their sin. God would send an army to come against them! The people were not worshipping God. We should worship God alone!

Today we are going to read from 2 Kings. Let's open the Bible to the book of 2 Kings now! *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is.* Here it is in my Bible. As we go through our lesson today, we are going to see that God had to judge Israel because God wants us to worship Him alone. *Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

God was about to send the enemy to destroy Israel. The enemy would sap the people's strength and take them away from their homes. Listen to this! The Bible explains just what the enemies did and why! *Read 2 Kings 17:5.*

? Who was the enemy? *Assyria.*

Assyria was a powerful country, and the Assyrians did not like God's people! They took over Israel! The Bible says the enemy, Assyria, besieged the people.

? What do you think besieged means? *Allow discussion.*

The people were surrounded! The Assyrian army surrounded the nation of Israel. There was no way out for the Israelites!

? Why did God allow this to happen? Do you remember? *Allow discussion.*

Let me read this to you. This is what God's Word says. *Read 2 Kings 17:7*

? What had the children of Israel done? *Sinned against God.*

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart. Yes, they sinned against God and worshipped other gods. They didn't worship the true God. We should worship Him alone!

But God was angry about something else. Listen to this and tell me why God was so angry with His people. *Read 2 Kings 17:9 emphasizing "high places."*

? What did the people build? *High places.*

? What do you think that means? What is a "high place"? *Allow discussion.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. A high place was an altar the people built to worship false gods—not the real God. The people would go to the high place and worship the false gods! They honored and worshipped false gods instead of the one true God who created them.

Listen as I read 2 Kings 17:12 and tell me what the people did. *Read 2 Kings 17:12. Emphasize the answers to the questions below.*

? Who were the people serving? *Idols!*

The Israelites did not worship God alone! They served idols!

? Do you remember what an idol is? *Refer to your small statue and the Flip Chart. Allow discussion.*

2 Kings 17:5

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know that they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them!

2 Kings 17:7

2 Kings 17:9

2 Kings 17:12

An idol is anything we love more than God. The people we are reading about today were worshipping statues—not the real God. The Israelites did not love God or worship Him alone. They loved other gods and worshipped them instead. They made carved images and bowed down to them. They built altars on the high places. This did not honor God. The Israelites had sinned against God. God wanted His people to stop worshipping idols and to worship Him again.

Remember, the prophets warned God’s people for many years. God loved His people and wanted them to turn back to Him and stop sinning. But they wouldn’t. Finally, God sent a great big army to take over the land and take the people out of Israel.

Do you remember when we pretended the Israelites were surrounded by the Assyrian army? It was a couple weeks ago. *This was in Lesson 2.* God’s people were surrounded by their adversaries—their enemies! We acted it out. Let’s do it again. I want three of you with big muscles to come stand in the middle of the circle. You pretend to be God’s people—the Israelites. But you have sinned against God! *Choose three students who have “big” muscles.*

Now I want some of you to be the adversaries. The adversaries were enemies. God sent the adversaries to punish His people. *Choose 4 or 5 students to surround the people of God.*

? **What is an adversary? Do you remember?** *An enemy. Someone who is not your friend.*

You adversaries come in and circle around the Israelites. The Bible says the adversaries were all around them. The adversaries took the Israelites away. I want you adversaries to take the Israelites away! Take them out of the circle! *Have the adversaries take the other students out of the circle. That’s what happened in the Bible. The enemy was stronger than the Israelites! They took the people out of the land of Israel, just as God had said! If time allows repeat this exercise including more children.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The people of Israel had turned from God. They built altars and made sacrifices to false gods. The altars were on the high places. The people did not worship God alone. So God sent the Assyrians to punish His people. They besieged (surrounded) them and took them out of Israel. *Repeat the role play from above if time allows.*

God’s people were always thinking about the world and not the true God. They turned away from God. That can happen to us, too. Sometimes the things in the world like our toys, our friends, our family, and lots of other things, can make us turn away from God. This isn’t good! God wants us to love and worship Him alone. He wants to be the most important person in our lives and in our hearts.

When other things become more important to us than God, we sin against Him. God wants us to worship Him alone! When we put anything

above God, we are turning away from God like the Israelites did in our lesson today. We want to turn toward God! And the best way to do that is to keep learning about Him.

? Where do we learn about God? *The Bible.*

That's right. The Bible will tell us more and more about God. The Bible is a wonderful book. I can read it every day, and I don't ever get tired of it. I am always learning new ways to worship God and God alone! And you can start learning now, too! Ask someone to read the Bible to you so you can find out about God—so you can start to learn how to obey Him and worship Him alone!

SONG

God wanted the Israelites to worship Him alone, but instead they built altars on the high places and worshipped other gods. Because of their sin, God sent an army to destroy them. God wants US to worship Him alone, too! Let's sing the song "God Wants Me to Worship Him."

NOTE: You will sing the song, "God Sent Assyria" during Activity 2 below.

Refer to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. God is the Lord. There is no other. He wants us to love and worship Him alone. Let's sing the Memory Verse Song. Sing "Isaiah 42:8" while marching around the room.

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.



Hot Potato Review

MATERIALS

- Small, soft ball
- Hot Potato Review Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM
- Flip Chart Song Page

INSTRUCTIONS

Have the children stand in a circle and pass a small ball around while singing some songs from the Flip Chart Song Page. When the teacher stops singing, the student holding the ball will answer a review question from the lesson. Then the game will resume.

You may also practice the alphabet, recite some of the books of the Bible, count to a certain number, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.

We are going to play a fun game of Hot Potato! It is a lot like the Bible Pass Around

game we play every week. Only this time you'll be passing this ball around! Pass the ball to the person next to you quickly and calmly. As we pass the ball, let's sing some of the songs we have learned. When we stop singing, the person holding the ball will answer a question from today's lesson. Let's go!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Refer to the Flip Chart. God used the Assyrian army to punish the Israelites for their sins. The Assyrians were mean and strong and did not like God's people. They took over Israel and took the people away from their homes to another land. God is just and must punish sin. He wants us to worship Him alone!



God Sent Assyria

MATERIALS

- God Sent Assyria Activity Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM

INSTRUCTIONS

Students will review the Assyrian takeover by “acting out” the song as they learn it.

Divide the class into two “teams”—Assyria and the Israelites. Have them line up opposite each other. As you teach/sing the song, the students will act it out per the script on the God Sent Assyria Activity Sheet. Repeat each verse several times before moving on to the next verse and before putting the whole song together. See complete

directions on the God Sent Assyria Activity Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM.

Repeat the song/activity until the children understand their parts. Then allow them to switch parts.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God’s people had sinned. They did not love Him or worship Him alone. They worshipped false gods called idols. God sent an army to take over the Israelites’ land and take the people far away from their homes. This is how God punished His people for their sins. God wants us to worship Him alone!



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Isaiah 42:8 I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Flashcards

INSTRUCTIONS

Now let’s work on memorizing part of God’s Word! *Have students sit in the Circle Time area.*

Show the children the Memory Verse Flashcards. Hand out the cards to the students. The ones holding cards will stand in order according to the memory verse. The children who did not receive cards can help their friends know where to stand. Then all of the children will say the verse aloud according to the order they are in and the card they have. Did they get it right? Repeat as time allows.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God’s Word is very clear that He alone is to be worshipped. The God of the Bible is the one true and living God. We must love and worship Him with all our heart.



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart and any other props you've used today.

Refer to the Flip Chart. God was very patient with His chosen people, Israel. But Israel just wouldn't stop sinning! The Israelites did not worship God alone. Instead, they worshipped false gods called idols. God sent prophets to tell the Israelites to stop sinning and worship God alone. But the people did not listen. So finally, God punished them. God sent the terrible and mean Assyrian army to take over Israel and take the people away! God's people turned from the one true and living God. They worshipped other things. They disobeyed and sinned against God, so God punished them.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

God had to punish the people for their sins—they did not worship Him alone. God wants us to worship Him alone. He does not want us to worship anything or anyone else. God does not want us to sin at all!

But the Bible says we are born in sin and have turned from God. Just like God punished the Israelites for their disobedience, He must punish us as well. But God has offered all of us a way to be forgiven of our sins so we won't have to face His judgment and punishment. Jesus took the punishment for sin when He died on the Cross. He made a way for sinners like you and me to be saved from punishment if we will turn away from our sins and turn to Jesus by believing and trusting Him.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for being the one true and living God.
- Thank God for giving us Jesus who took the punishment for our sins.
- Pray that God will give us hearts to worship Him alone!

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

GOD WANTS ME TO WORSHIP HIM!

(To the tune of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes")

*Lift up your hands then lower them when singing the words
"worship Him."*

God wants me to worship Him,
(This is the way we wash our clothes,)

Worship Him,
(Wash our clothes,)

Worship Him.
(Wash our clothes.)

God wants me to worship Him,
(This is the way we wash our clothes,)

Worship Him alone!
(Early Monday morning.)

*Raise your hands and sway them from side to side when
singing the words "praise His name."*

God wants me to praise His name,
Praise His name,
Praise His name.
God wants me to praise His name,
Praise His name alone!

GOD SENT ASSYRIA

(To the tune of "Skip, Skip, Skip to My Lou")

Make muscles.

Assyria was very strong,
(Skip, skip, skip to my Lou,)

Assyria was very strong,
(Skip, skip, skip to my Lou,)

Assyria was very strong,
(Skip, skip, skip to my Lou,)

They didn't like God's people!
*(Skip to my Lou, my darling!)
Shake your head "no."*

Make and walk in a circle.

They circled around Is-ra-el,
They circled around Is-ra-el,
They circled around Is-ra-el,
They didn't like God's people!

Shake your head "no." Stomp your feet.

They took God's people to other lands,
They took God's people to other lands,
They took God's people to other lands,
They didn't like God's people!

Shake your head "no." Wave your arms.

God wants us to worship Him,
God wants us to worship Him,
God wants us to worship Him,
We must worship God a-lone!
Raise your hand and point your pointer finger up.

ISAIAH 42:8

(To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Have the children march around the room.

I am the Lord, that is My name;
(The farmer in the dell, the farmer in the dell.)

And My glory I will not give to another,
(Hi-ho the dairy-o, the farmer in the dell.)

Nor My praise to carved images.
(The farmer in the dell, the farmer in the dell.)

Isaiah forty-two-oo-oo, ver-erse eight.
(Hi-ho the dairy-o, the farmer in the dell.)

Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.