

March 11, 2001

1st - 6th Grades

The Assyrian Captivity

2 Kings 14-17

2KG03

2 Kings



Materials I Need:

Legend:

 = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade



 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade



Focus Verse:



Memory Verse:


“But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the LORD their God.” 2 Kings 17:14


 Hook:

Poor Pillows? (Discussion). ,  Were the Israelites a “stiff-necked” people because of an old habit of sleeping on rocks, initiated by Jacob? No, of course not. But what does “stiff-necked” refer to, and where did the word come from? Look at Nehemiah 9:29 and Jeremiah 17:23. “Stiff-necked” is a figure of speech used to describe a stubborn, unyielding and arrogant people. The phrase is taken from the example of a stubborn domestic animal (Psalm 32), such as the ox, that turns its shoulder away from the yoke, or the horse that resists the leading of its bit and bridle, refusing to follow directions. These animals will have sore necks in the end because of their resistance. Israel, likewise, was stiff-necked in refusing to obey the Word of God and, instead, following after idolatry and immorality.


Stiff-Necked Students (Activity/Illustration). ,  Bring in a neck brace or soft collar and have the students take turns wearing it. While they have the brace on ask them to bow their heads as if to pray. Ask them to look down and find the Bible verse for this morning. Have them try again once the brace has been removed. Explain that this morning they will learn how God describes those who were too stubborn to return to Him as “stiff-necked.” The punishment for this was captivity by their enemies, the Assyrians. Explain to the younger students that “stiff-necked” was a description of their refusal to submit to God. They did not actually have stiff necks.

Whom Do You Follow? (Activity). ,  Ask for some volunteers (about 10 percent of the class) to go outside the classroom with one of the teachers (Teacher “A”) to get their instructions. Teacher “A” will tell them to listen carefully to him as he gives instructions about what they should do. For example, “This game is like Simon Says without my saying Simon Says--just listen carefully and do what I say.” In the meantime, another teacher (Teacher “B”), who stayed in the classroom with the remainder of the students, quickly tells them the same thing, that they are to follow him. Any other teachers in the classroom should stand at the front and also follow Teacher “B’s” instruction. Teacher “A” then returns with his volunteers and calls out instructions, going rather quickly from one activity to another, calling out, “Skip in place...clap your hands... wave your arms.... jump ...shake your head...etc. It may be helpful to have these written out ahead of time. Teacher “B” may choose to do or not do what is being called out by Teacher “A”. For example, Teacher “B” may skip in place, clap hands, and wave arms, but hops instead of jumps as Teacher “A” calls out the instructions. The object of this activity is to see if the students who went out with the teacher listen to him or follow what is seen being done by those around them. Ask them if it is difficult to do one thing when almost everyone around you is doing something different.

 **Unmoldable Doh (Activity).** 🐘, 🦋 Give each student at the table a lump of soft salt dough, along with a piece that is dry and hard. Ask them to make something (the same thing) using both lumps. When they complain that the hard salt dough cannot be molded, explain to them that this is what happened to the Israelites. This morning the students will hear how they had turned away from and forgotten God. God allowed them to be taken captive by the Assyrians as punishment. When our hearts become hard, and we are selfish and turn from God, we are no longer moldable by God. As Christians, we want to stay moldable so that God can use us for His glory.

 **Who Were the Assyrians? (Discussion).** 🦋 Ask the students if they have ever heard of the Assyrians. Do they have any idea who they were? Explain that the Assyrians were a fierce, warring nation during Old Testament times. Here are some facts about them:

- Their kingdom was located between the Tigris and Euphrates River.
- They were the world's most powerful empire from ca. 1300-600 B.C.
- The favorite pursuits of the Assyrians were war and hunting.
- They were a merciless and savage people.
- Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria (this is the same city Jonah went and preached to).
- God used the Assyrians for His own purposes.

 **Stiff-Necked Donkey (Discussion).** 🐘, 🦋 Ask the students the following question: "Just what exactly is a stiff-necked donkey?" Have them read Psalm 32: 8-10 or read it aloud to the class. Bring in pictures of donkeys, and talk about how stubborn they are. Ask them if they have ever ridden on a donkey or seen one up close. Don't they always seem to be stubborn? Why do you think that they are stubborn? Are they stubborn on purpose? Or are they just stupid? How is it that a donkey can walk along the edge of a cliff and not fall off? Is a donkey the same as a mule? Ask them if they know anyone who acts like a stubborn donkey. Challenge them to tell about a time when they were stubborn. In the Bible Adventure today, they will hear about what happens when we are too stubborn for our own good.



Book:


Presentation Ideas –

 **The People Turn from God (Illustration/Coloring Page).** 🐘, 🦋 2 Kings 17:7-12, 2KG03.GF1.

 **The Prophets Warn the People of the Coming Judgment (Illustration/Coloring Page).**
🐘, 🦋 2 Kings 17:13, 2KG03.GF2.

 **The Israelites Worship the Golden Calves (Illustration/Coloring Page).** 🐘, 🦋
2 Kings 17:16, 2KG03.GF3.

 **The Assyrians Take the Israelites Away From Their Cities (Illustration/Coloring Page).**
🐘, 🦋 2 Kings 17:23, 2KG03.GF4.

 **Stiff-Necked Stanley (Role-play).** 🐘, 🦋 Have a fellow teacher wear a neckbrace and walk in right before you begin teaching today's lesson. Introduce the person as "Stiff-Necked Stanley." As you begin talking to Stanley, make sure he is very stubborn and "stiff-necked" about everything in his life, from not wanting to obey his parents, to being stubborn at school and with his friends. Ask the students when the skit is over, "Do you think it's good that Stanley is stubborn and stiff-necked?" Ask them what Stanley might do to not be so stubborn and let them respond.

Bible Adventure for K – 2nd Grades –

God had had enough! Even after His repeated warnings, the people of Israel turned their backs on God and worshiped the false gods of the nations around them. They were certain they would be better off serving idols than putting their faith in the one true God. When the Lord sent His prophets to tell them to turn from their evil ways, 2 Kings 17:14 says, "But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the Lord their God."

Remember that, during the time of 2 Kings, the kingdom of Israel was divided into two different countries—Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Both countries had one wicked king after another who led them in the worship of idols, especially the false god Baal. Last week we learned that King Jehu of Israel wiped out Baal worship in the land. Unfortunately, his work was short-lived and Israel returned to its idolatrous ways. During the reign of King Jeroboam II, God graciously blessed Israel and allowed it to grow bigger than it had been in hundreds of years. But do you think this caused the people to turn to God and put their confidence in Him? Absolutely not! Instead, they became prideful and put their trust in their riches. They would not listen to the voice of the Lord.

The time had come for God to punish His people. He would use the nation of Assyria to discipline the northern tribes of Israel. At that time Hoshea was the king. He had been forced by the Assyrians to pay money to them. To avoid having to pay more money, Hoshea secretly made plans with the king of Egypt to overthrow Assyria. But his plan backfired and the king of Assyria took Hoshea captive and attacked Samaria, the capital of Israel. The Assyrians forced the people from their homes and made them live in a foreign land.

In Isaiah 10:5-6a, God said, “Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of My anger, in whose hand is the club of My wrath! I send him against a godless nation, I dispatch him against a people who anger Me.” God was no longer going to be patient with Israel. Their idol worship had sunk them into the depths of sin. God used the Assyrians as His “rod of anger” to punish His people. He had warned them over and over again and sent His prophets throughout the land calling His people back to Himself. Now they were experiencing the punishment their sin had caused. If only they had put their faith in God and trusted Him to take care of them! Then they would have never turned to idols!

Ever since God brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt, they had had a hard time doing what was right. They were constantly looking to the nations around them and copying them. They thought life would go better for them if they imitated idol worshipers instead of obeying God. Boy, were they wrong! Their sin grew worse and worse and God severely punished them for it. Let’s learn from the mistakes of Israel. God takes sin seriously and so should we. Sin will always be punished eventually. There will come a point in time when God’s patience will end and He will respond with serious punishment. Today, instead of prophets, God has given us the Bible to warn us what will happen if we continue to rebel against Him. Are you listening? If you ignore God and His Word, you will eventually pay the price.

Bible Adventure for 3rd – 6th Grades –

The book of 2 Kings gives us a look at a disappointing time in Israel’s history. To refresh your memory, the kingdom was divided during this time into two countries—Israel and Judah. Both countries had a series of evil kings who were not interested in following the one true God. Instead, they led the people in the worship of idols. Under King Jehu of Israel and Jehoiada, the priest of Judah, Baal worship was halted for a while, but the people continued in their worship of other idols, following the example set by Jeroboam I years before.

During this terrible time of idolatry in Israel, a man by the name of Jeroboam II became king. This Jeroboam reigned for 41 years, and while he was king the borders of Israel were expanded almost to what they were when Solomon was king. In spite of the sin of idolatry filling the land, God was gracious and allowed Israel to grow in riches. But even His graciousness did not cause the Israelites to turn to God in thanks. Instead, they put their confidence in their riches, not in the God who had given it all to them. The people became prideful and insensitive to God’s words, even when he sent His prophets, Hosea and Amos, to the people to warn them. The Israelites ignored the warnings of the prophets.

After Jeroboam II came several more kings for both Israel and Judah, and most of them were evil kings. God had used the nation of Assyria to discipline His people in the past, but for about a generation this nation had been fairly quiet. Now the Lord was ready to use Assyria again to get Israel’s attention. The king of Israel at this time was Hoshea. The Assyrians had been forcing Israel to pay tribute money to them, but Hoshea was looking for a way to get out of paying it, so he tried to make a deal with the king of Egypt instead. When the king of Assyria heard about it, he took Hoshea and threw him into prison. Then he attacked Samaria, the capital of Israel. In 722 B.C., King Shalmaneser went throughout the land, taking the Israelites captive to Assyria.

All through the book of 2 Kings, God makes it clear that the idolatry of His people angered Him greatly. It was because of this great sin that God raised up Assyria to take His people captive. Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: “Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of My anger, in whose hand is the club of My wrath! I send him against a godless nation, I dispatch him against a people who anger Me” (Isaiah 10:5-6a). God had reached the end of His patience with Israel. The people’s sinful worship of idols had caused their heavenly Father to reach for the spanking stick, and Assyria was that stick.

In 2 Kings 17, God gives us about twenty different reasons why His punishment of Israel was so richly deserved:

- They worshiped other gods (v. 7).
- They walked in the ways of the nations that did not know or honor God (v. 8).
- They sinned secretly (v. 9).
- They built high places throughout the land (v. 9).
- They set up the sacred pillars and Asherah poles (v. 10).
- They did evil things (v. 11).
- They worshiped idols (v. 12).
- They did not listen and stiffened their necks (v. 14).
- They did not believe in God (v. 14).
- They rejected God’s decrees and His covenant (v. 15).
- They followed worthless idols and became worthless (v. 15).
- They imitated the wicked ways of the nations (v. 15).
- They forsook all the commandments of God (v. 16).
- They made molten images and worshiped Baal (v. 16).
- They sacrificed their sons and daughters to the god/idol Molech (v. 17).
- They practiced witchcraft and demonic practices (v. 17).
- They sold themselves to do evil (v. 17).

As you can see from this list, rebellion against God had become a way of life for the Israelites. God raised up enemies to discipline them, but they still refused to turn back to Him. He sent His special messengers, the prophets, to warn them time after time, but they would not listen. The people of Israel failed to see how awesome was their God. They had forgotten the wondrous things God had done to bring them out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Because they did not honor and value God or find their satisfaction in Him, they began to look for it in false gods and lived their lives to please themselves, feeding their own selfish desires. No wonder God had had enough.

We can learn much about God’s character from the pages of the Old Testament, and about His relationship with man. Listen to this verse in Exodus 34. These are God’s words about Himself: “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished.” (vs. 6 & 7a). God says He is slow to anger, forgiving when we repent, but guaranteeing punishment if we continue on in rebellion to Him. There will come a time when God’s patience will end, and He will respond with serious judgment, just as He did with Israel. Today, God has given us His Word—the Bible—to warn us of what will happen to us if we continue in rebellion against Him. Are you listening? God is slow to anger, but those who rebel against Him or try to ignore Him will eventually pay the price. The Bible teaches us that God is to be trusted entirely. He has and is all you will ever need. Don’t follow Israel’s example! Learn to obey the Lord and to trust Him with everything that is in you!

Aim Questions:

1. **What happened to Baal worship in Israel?** *God used Jehu and Joash to eliminate it from Israel and Judah.*
2. **What happened during the reign of Jeroboam II?** *God blessed the nation of Israel so that it prospered.*
3. **What did the people do in response to God's goodness to them?** *They hardened their hearts and refused to obey the Lord.*
4. **Name two of the prophets God used during this time to warn the nation.** *Hosea and Amos.*
5. **What eventually happened to the northern kingdom of Israel?** *The people were taken captive by the Assyrians.*
6. **What were some of the reasons WHY they were punished in this severe way?** *They continually rebelled against God and did not place their trust in Him.*
7. **What lesson can you learn from today's lesson that you can apply to your own life?**



Look:



Stiff-Necked Israelite (Craft). 🐛, 🦋 Each student will need:

instruction sheet from **2KG03.GF5 Pg. 1**
verse label from **2KG03.GF5 Pg. 2**
2 ½" styrofoam ball or small red potato
toilet paper tube
½ sheet of colored cardstock
scraps of construction paper, cloth, felt, or tissue paper
colored markers
glue
yarn

Have each student decorate his or her Israelite individually and then tape the figure to the base and paste the memory verse in front of the "stiff-necked" Israelite.



God's Judgment Deserved (Activity). 🐛, 🦋 To help the students understand God's justice in using the Assyrians to punish Israel, write down each of the reasons (from 2 Kings 17:7-8) listed on **2KG03.GF6 Pg. 1** onto one 4' length of wide butcher paper. Print the reasons clearly using 2" capital letters and 1" lower case letters. Alternating black and blue inks for every other reason may help the letters to be more legible from a distance. Using a second piece of butcher paper, write GOD'S JUDGMENT DESERVED in very large letters. Decorate the rest of the paper with a few "idols." Cut this sheet into enough strips to cover each reason. Tape the strips (in correct order) over each reason, which was printed on the first piece of butcher paper (tape at the beginning and the end of each reason). Hang the paper on the classroom wall. Call on one student at a time to come up and take off one strip to reveal a reason. Read the reason aloud. Using the answer key (**2KG03.GF6 Pg. 2**), ask the student to tell the class what the Israelites should have done instead of what they did. or call upon another student to give the answer. Emphasize that God's judgment on Israel was richly deserved. It was not the whim of an angry God but the time chosen by our all-knowing, perfect God. He had given the Israelites many chances to obey and trust in Him. We also make the choice to obey and trust Him or not to, and to worship idols or worship the Lord. Ask the students to consider what choices they are making for themselves. **Option:** Use **2KG03.GF6 Pg. 1** as a worksheet for either individual use or as a class.



Plow the Field (Game). 🦋 Line up the students on one side of the field (delineated in the classroom by chairs or masking tape) evenly along its edge. The objective is to be the first ox across the field. To accomplish this, the students draw previously-prepared notecards with various behaviors written on them, one per card. Depending on the severity of the behavior, perhaps, assign each card a number of steps. Demonstrate for the students what a "step" measures out to be so that each student is taking the same sized steps (e.g., heel to toe). An ox that obeys its master and does not "turn its shoulder away" will complete its work more quickly than one that refuses to follow directions and resists the leading of its yoke. So the variety of behaviors pulled from the hat on notecards should include both submissive, obedient behaviors, and rebellious, stubborn ones.

After the student reads the card he has drawn and the number of steps, have him declare if the behavior is “God’s way” or “my way”. If the card is “God’s way” the steps should be taken forward toward the other end of the field. However, “my way” cards result in that number of steps backward. An option would be to have the students draw a “behavior card” AND a “number of steps card,” or roll dice.

- Aim Questions (Worksheet).** 🎒 Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today’s Bible Adventure, **2KG03.GF7**.
 - Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** 🎒, 🦋 This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today’s lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **2KG03.GF8 Pgs. 1 & 2**.
 - 2 Kings 17:14 (Memory Verse Song).** 🎒 Words and music for today’s memory verse are available upon request from Children’s Ministry.
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Took:

- Choke Chains, Bits, and Bridles (Discussion).** 🎒, 🦋 Bring in these items to show the class. Ask them what the purpose is of these things. Look at Psalm 32:8-9. Like the nation of Israel, we often think that our way is better than God’s way. Discuss with the students which dog would be happier: the one who obeys its master or the one who resists? Which dog gives its master more glory? Israel was attracted to the ways of other nations and ran off to these strange ways. Frequently, we make the same kinds of choices. What things in our life are strange to God? Discuss specific items for which we must look out: bad movies, video games, etc. As in Psalm 32:9, can we draw near to our Master without such things as choke chains, bits, and bridles?
- God at the Center of Your Life (Craft).** 🎒, 🦋 Explain to the students that the lesson that God was teaching the Israelites was simple—fear God and obey Him. They were enticed by the temptations (idolatry) of the Promised Land. They grew accustomed to living life without God. This indifference and moral apathy led them to increasing levels of sin. If the Lord remains at the center of our lives, and we live in obedience to Him, we will remain close to Him, and He can use us. Use **2KG03.GF9** to give the students the template to fill in individually. Have them put "God" in the center of the circle and fill in the other areas of their lives inside the other sections of the outside circle. Help them color and mount this to a piece of cardstock paper.
- Commandment Bookmark (Craft).** 🎒, 🦋 Each student will need:
 - a bookmark from **2KG03.GF10 Pgs. 1 & 2**
 - yarn or ribbon
 - gold paper seal
 - crayons or colored markers
 - scissors
 - hole punch
 - contact paper (optional)Duplex copy **2KG03.GF10 Pgs. 1 & 2** onto light-colored cardstock and cut apart. The students should decorate the border of their bookmarks on the commandment side and write their names on the prayer side and tie a ribbon or piece of yarn through the hole. Bookmarks may be covered with clear contact paper if desired. Discuss the importance of reading and knowing God’s Word and obeying it. Challenge the students to be diligent about this throughout the week.



Stop - My Way/Go - God's Way (Craft). 🐴, ✂️ Each student will need:

2KGS03GF11 Pg. 1 copied onto white paper

2KGS03GF11 Pg. 2 copied onto red cardstock

2KGS03GF11 Pg. 3 copied onto green cardstock

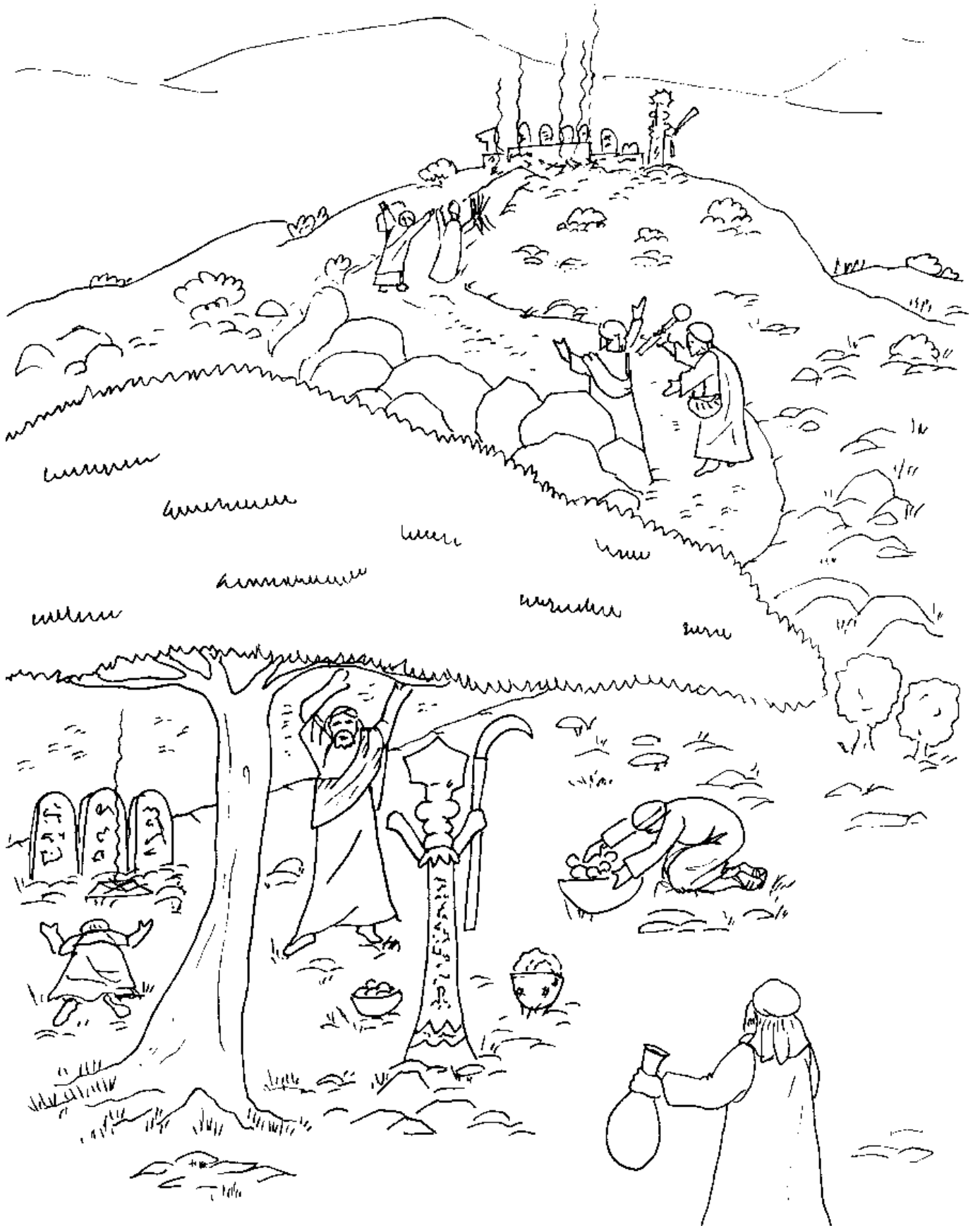
paint stir stick

scissors

glue

Have the students cut out the individual items on **2KGS03.GF11 Pg. 1** and the shapes from **2KGS03.GF11 Pgs. 2 & 3**. Have them glue the picture of the donkey and verse onto the red cardstock stop sign and the picture of the finger pointing up and the verse on the green go sign. Discuss with the students how going our own way will only lead to obstacles (stop signs) in our lives but when we listen to Him, God will provide the way (green light) to obey and honor Him.

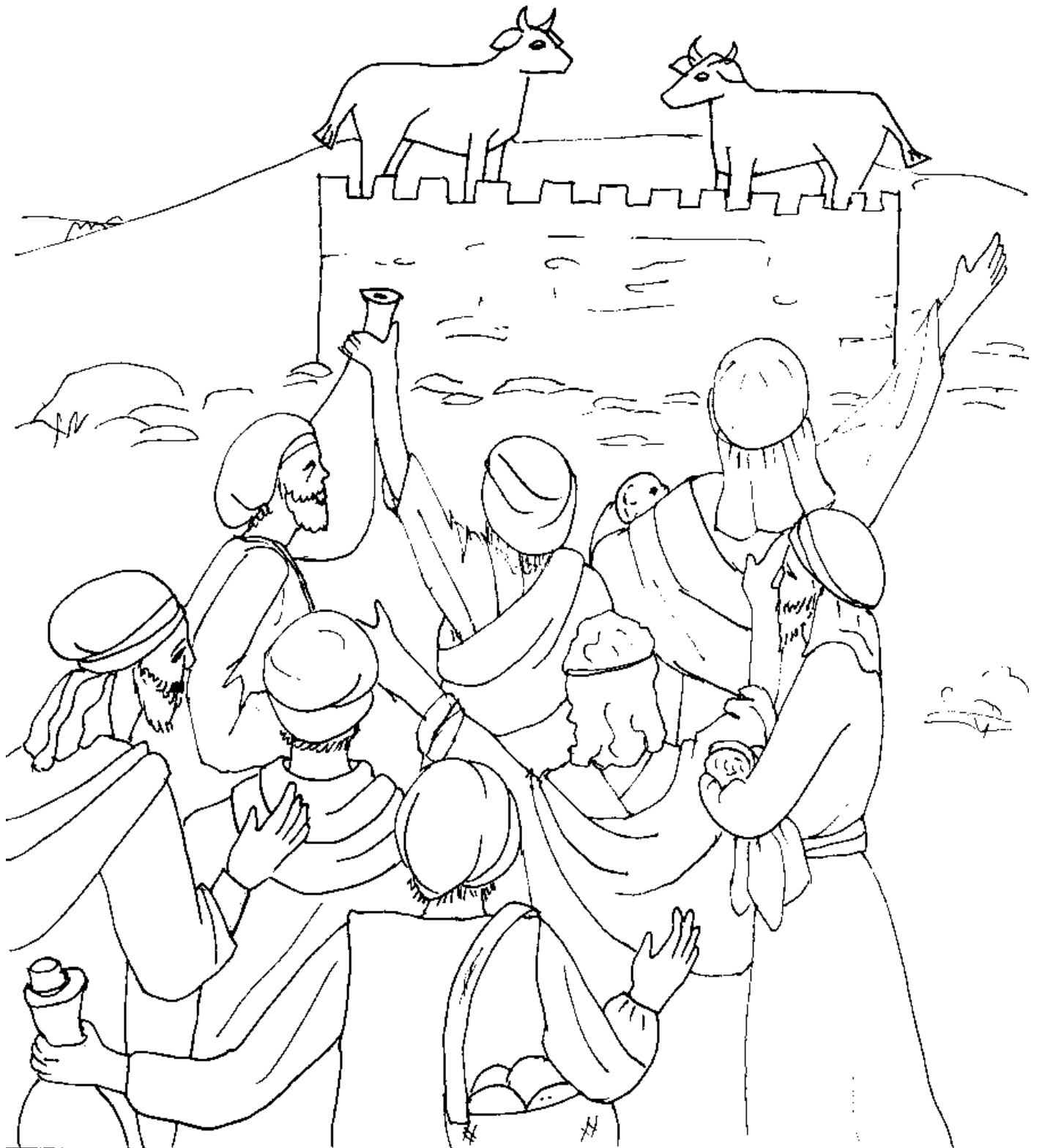
The People Turn from God



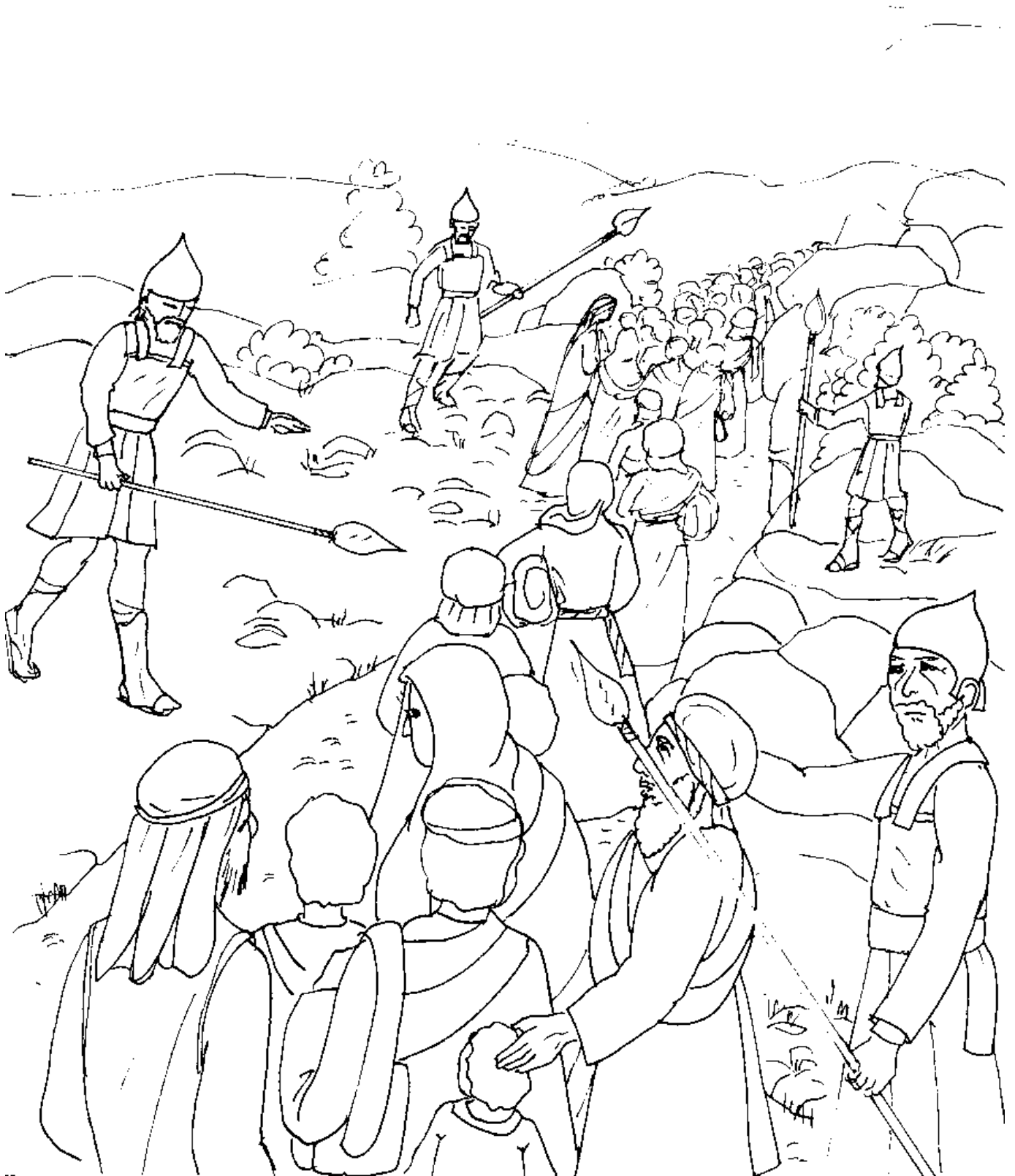
The Prophets Warn the People of the Coming Judgment



The Israelites Worship the Golden Calves

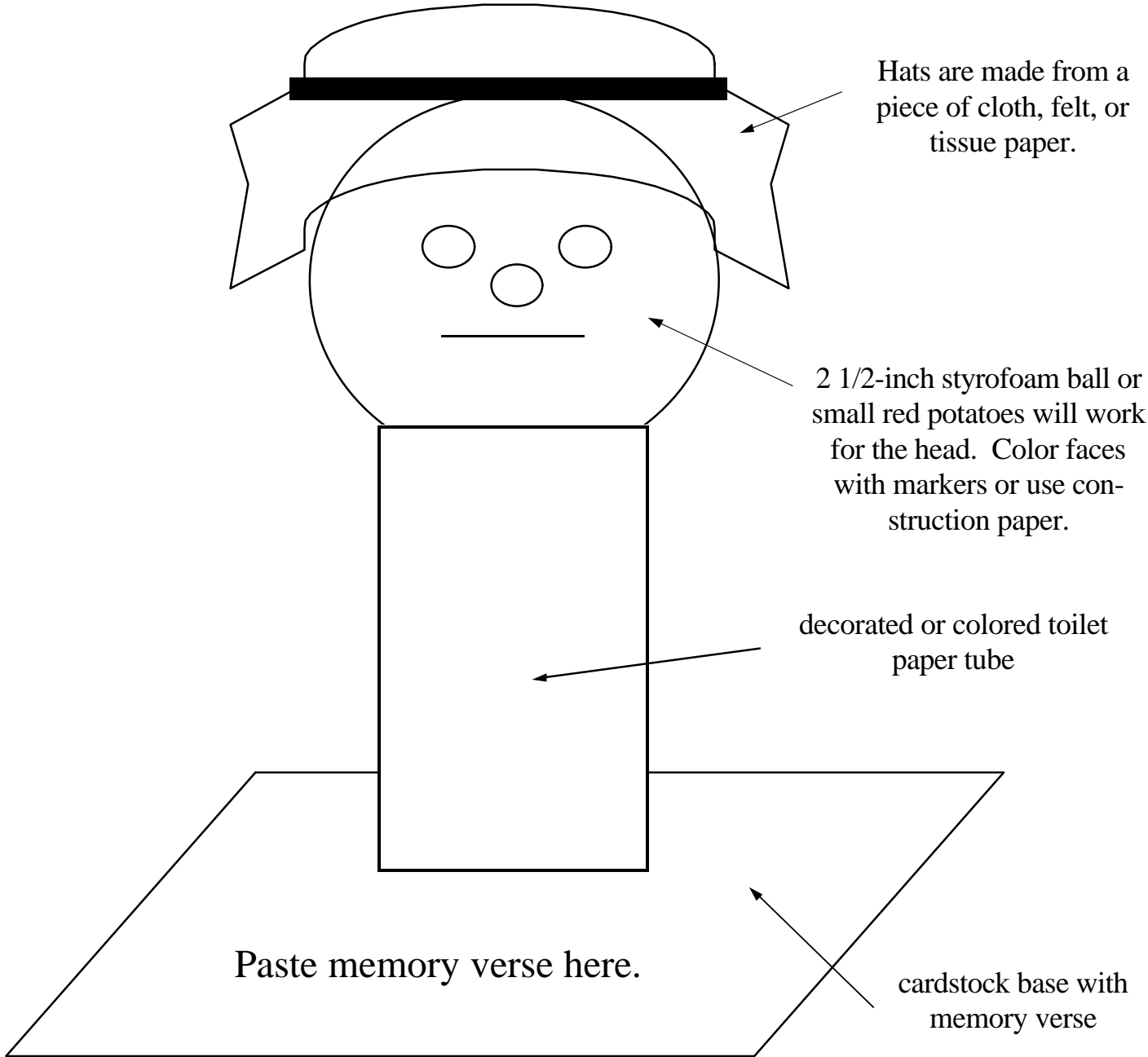


The Assyrians Take the Israelites Away From Their Cities



Stiff-Necked Israelite Craft

Instruction Sheet



“But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the LORD their God.”
2 Kings 17:14

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GOD'S JUDGMENT DESERVED

God's Reasons

1. They worshiped other gods (v. 7).
2. They walked in the ways of the nations that did not know or honor God (v. 8).
3. They sinned secretly (v. 9).
4. They built high places throughout the land (v. 9).
5. They set up the sacred pillars and Asheriah poles (v. 10).
6. They did evil things (v. 10).
7. They worshiped idols (v. 12).
8. They did not listen and stiffened their necks (v. 14).
9. They did not believe in God (v. 14).
10. They rejected God's decrees and His covenant (v. 15).
11. They became proud (v. 15).
12. They imitated the wicked ways of the nations (v. 15).
13. They forsook all the commandments of God (v. 16).
14. They made molten images and worshiped Baal (v. 16).
15. They sacrificed their sons and daughters to the god/idol Molech (v. 17).
16. They practiced witchcraft and demonic practices (v. 17).
17. They sold themselves to do evil (v. 17).

Note: Be prepared to answer questions about what these reasons mean and why they were sins.

GOD'S JUDGMENT DESERVED

God's Reasons

1. They worshiped other gods (v. 7).
Fear the Lord.
2. They walked in the ways of the nations that did not know or honor God (v. 8).
Walk in the way of the Lord.
3. They sinned secretly (v. 9).
Do not sin.
4. They built high places throughout the land (v. 9).
Only have place to worship God.
5. They set up the sacred pillars and Asheriah poles (v. 10).
Only have altars to God.
6. They did evil things (v. 10).
Do only things that please God, good things.
7. They worshiped idols (v. 12).
Serve only God.
8. They did not listen and stiffened their necks (v. 14).
Listen to God.
9. They did not believe in God (v. 14).
Believe in God.
10. They rejected God's decrees and His covenant (v. 15).
Accept God and His covenant.
11. They became proud (v. 15).
Be humble.
12. They imitated the wicked ways of the nations (v. 15).
Follow God's ways.
13. They forsook all the commandments of God (v. 16).
Obey the commandments of God.
14. They made molten images and worshiped Baal (v. 16).
Destroy any idols and worship only God.
15. They sacrificed their sons and daughters to the god/idol Molech (v. 17).
Do not sacrifice anyone because it is sin.
16. They practiced witchcraft and demonic practices (v. 17).
Do not practice witchcraft or demonic practices.
17. They sold themselves to do evil (v. 17).
Give themselves only to God and do what is good/right.

Note: Be prepared to answer questions about what these reasons mean and why they were sins.

Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. What happened to Baal worship in Israel?
2. What happened during the reign of Jeroboam II?
3. What did the people do in response to God's goodness to them?
4. Name two of the prophets God used during this time to warn the nation.
5. What eventually happened to the northern kingdom of Israel?
6. What were some of the reasons WHY they were punished in this severe way?
7. What lesson can you learn from today's lesson that you can

Because God takes sin seriously, He must punish sin.
Don't be like the Israelites who refused to listen to God.
Instead, read His word and spend time in prayer each day.
Love, trust, and obey the Lord with all your might.



"But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers,
who did not trust in the LORD their God."

2 Kings 17:14

Passage Review Questions

2 Kings 14 - 17

How old was Amaziah when he became king over Judah? 14:2

How long did Amaziah reign as king over Judah? 14:2

What happened during the reign of Jeroboam II? 14:25-28

What wicked thing did King Ahaz do? 16:10-15

How did God warn Israel of their sin against Him? 17:13

What did the people do in response to God's goodness to them?
17:14

How did Israel respond to God's warnings? 17:15

Did Israel continue to worship Baal and other gods? 17:16-17

How many of God's commandments did Israel keep? 17:16

After God removed Israel from His presence, who remained in the land? 17:18

What eventually happened to the northern kingdom of Israel?
17:23

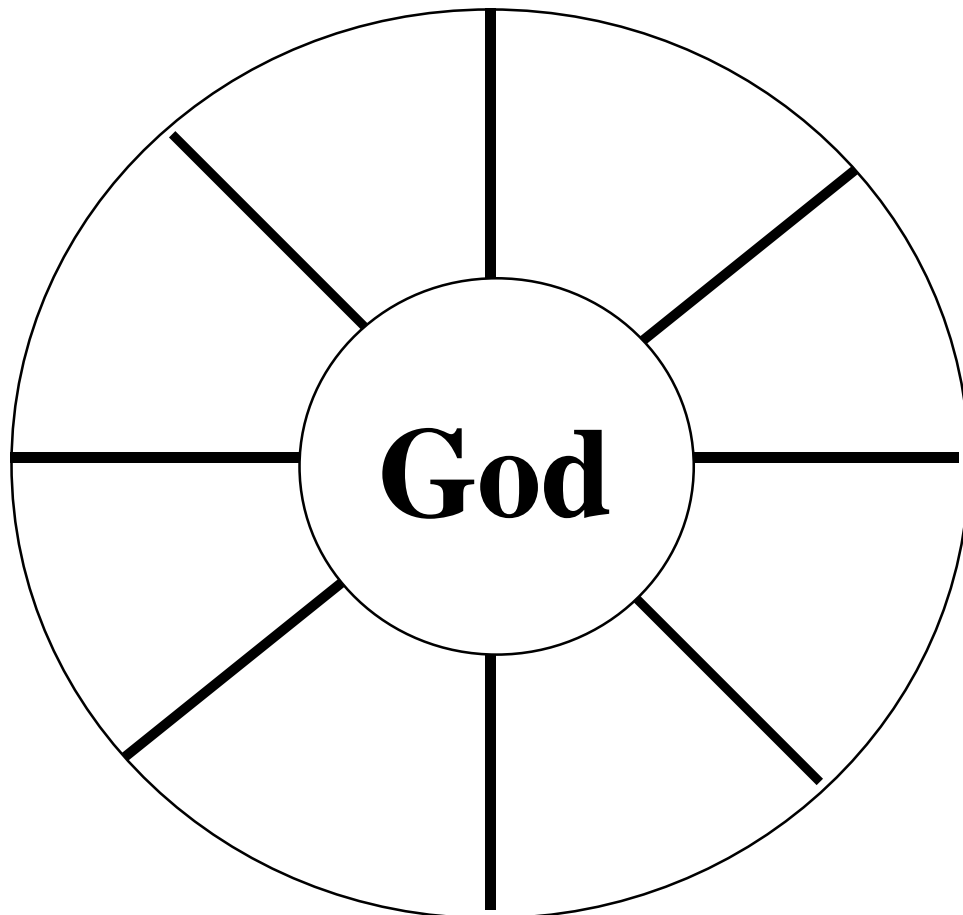
Who brought the foreign people to live in Israel's cities? 17:24

What did God do to these people who did not fear Him? 17:25

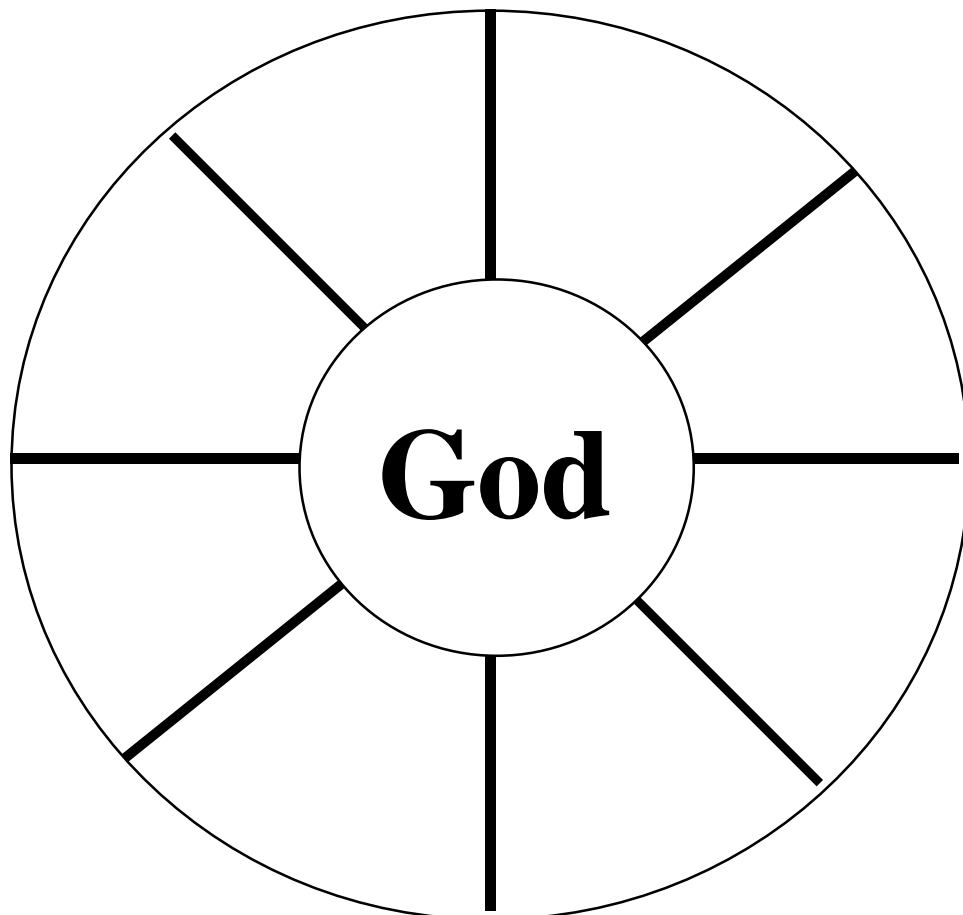
How did the King of Assyria respond to the people? 17:27

Did the foreigners in Israel fear the Lord only? 17:32-34

Write in the areas of your life such as home, family, school, church, friends, neighbors, work, and play in the sections around the circle. Color to complete this craft. Mount onto a larger piece of construction paper, or hang by a string or piece of yarn.



Write in the areas of your life such as home, family, school, church, friends, neighbors, work, and play in the sections around the circle. Color to complete this craft. Mount onto a larger piece of construction paper, or hang by a string or piece of yarn.



You shall have no
other gods before
Me.

You shall not make
idols.

You shall not use
the Lord's name in
vain.

Remember the
Sabbath day and
keep it holy.

Honor your mother
and father.

You shall not kill.

You shall not
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You shall not steal.

You shall not lie.

You shall not covet.

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Dear Lord,

Please help me to
remember to read
Your Word each
day.

Help me to not be
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who did not listen
to you. Help me to
love, trust, and
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“But they would not lis-
ten and were as stiff-
necked as their fathers,
who did not trust in the
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2 Kings 17:14

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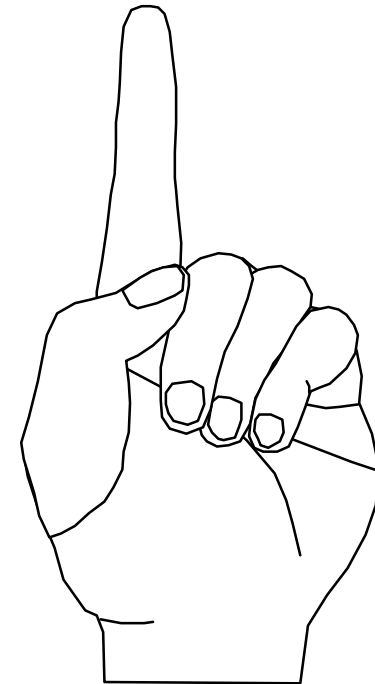
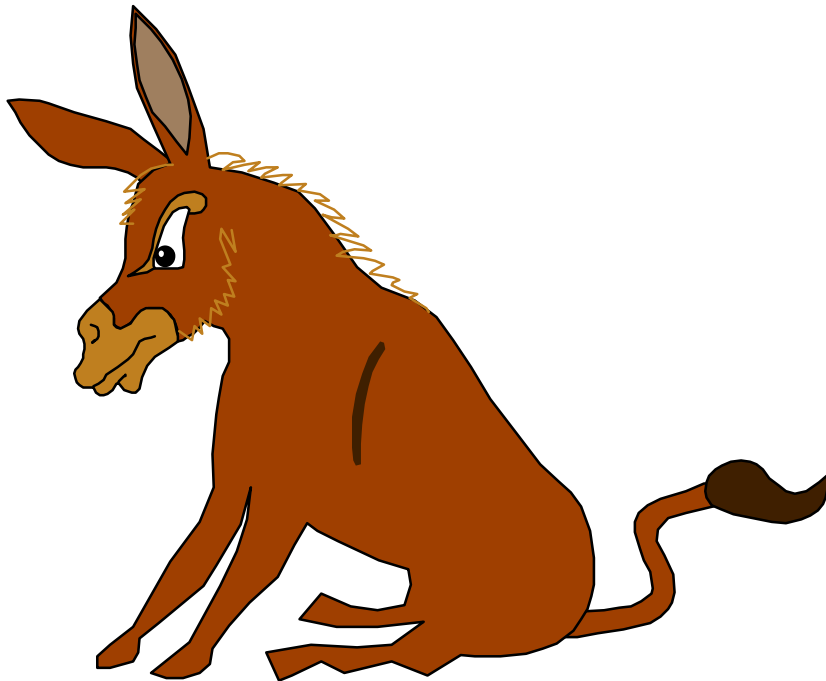
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Stop - My Way Go - God's Way

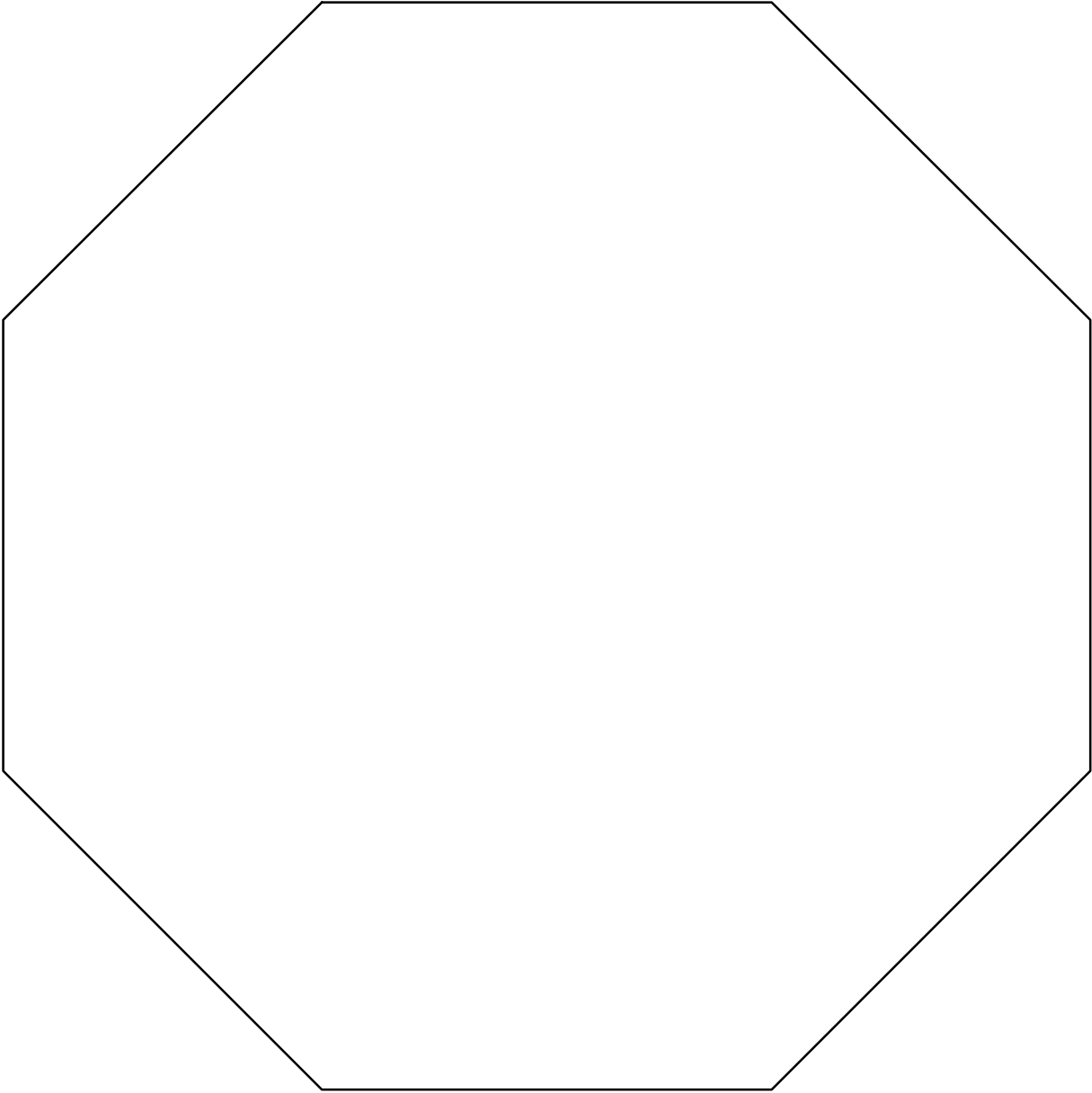
“But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the LORD their God.” 2 Kings 17:14

“Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD’s unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in Him.”
Psalm 32:10

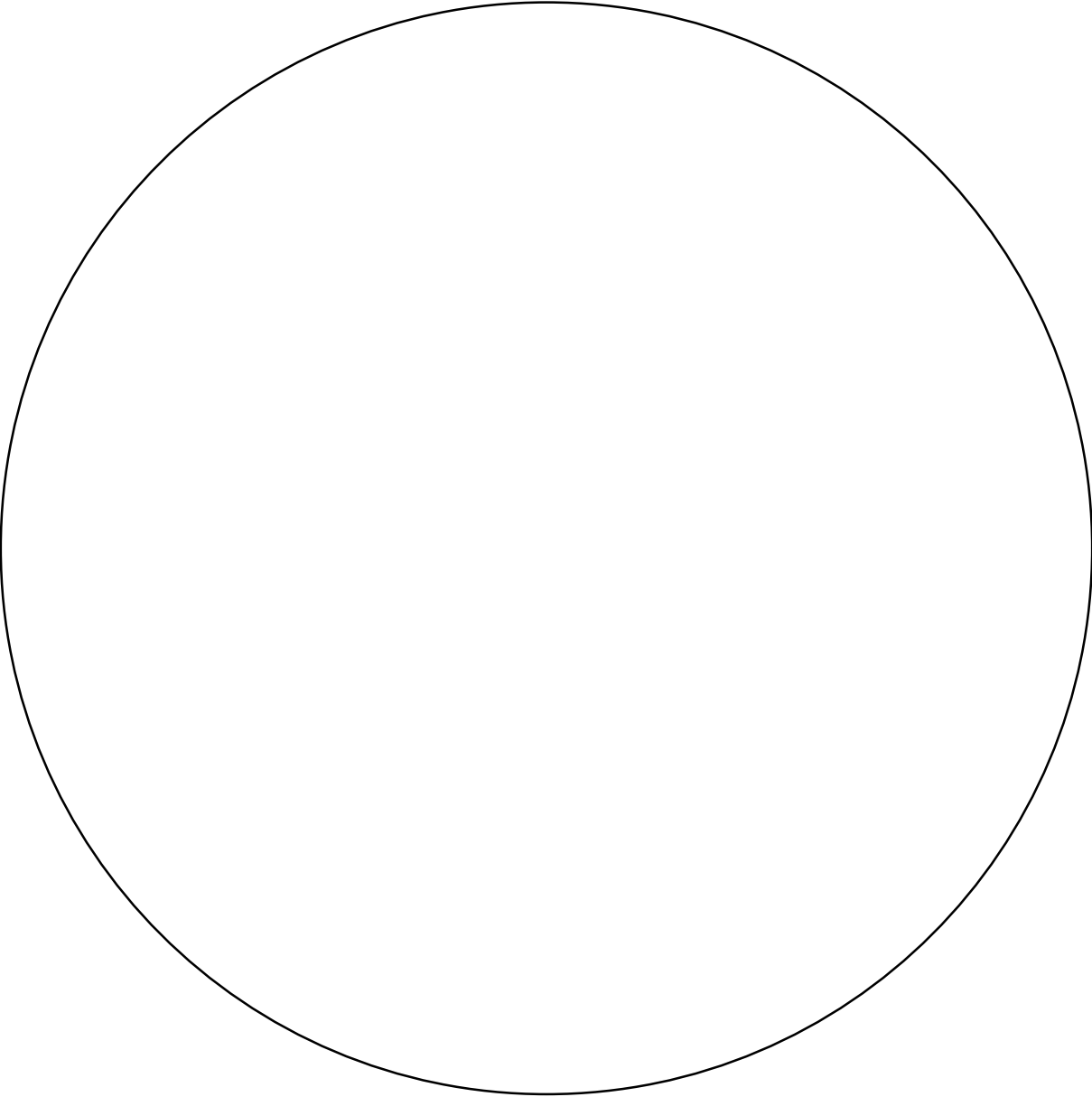


Copy onto white paper.

Copy onto red cardstock.



Copy onto green cardstock.





Unmoldable Doh

Give your children a lump of soft cookie dough, along with a piece that is dry and hard or that has already been partially baked. Ask them to make something (the same thing) using both lumps. When they complain that the hard dough cannot be molded, explain to them that this is what happened to the Israelites. They had turned away from and forgotten God. God allowed them to be taken captive by the Assyrians as punishment. When our hearts become hard, and we are selfish and turn from God, we are no longer moldable by God. As Christians, we want to stay moldable so that God can use us for His glory.

When you are finished making the shapes, bake them and eat them.

Know the heart of your child.

From time to time it is important to check the spiritual pulse of our children. We must ask ourselves what their spiritual condition is.

Five things can help you check their spiritual pulse:

1. What things are most important to your children?
2. What is their attitude toward spiritual matters?
3. How do they act toward and treat their siblings?
4. How do they act toward and treat their peers?
5. What do they do with their free time?

As you take their spiritual pulse, begin to pray how you can use God's Word to encourage and/or exhort them. Discuss and point out areas that please God and ones that don't.



FAITH BIBLE CHURCH

03/11/2001

FAMILY FUN SHEET

This is what we learned today:

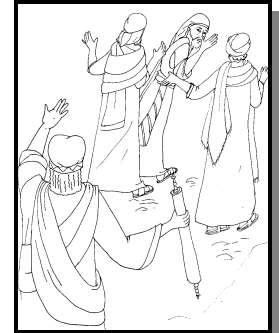
Passage ~ 2 Kings 14-17

Memory Verse ~ 2 Kings 17:14

"But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the LORD their God."

Application Points ~

- ◆ Sin must be punished.
- ◆ There will come a point in time when God's patience will end and He will respond with serious judgment.
- ◆ Obey the Lord and trust Him with all your might!



We Will Glorify

by Twila Paris

We will glorify the King of Kings,
We will glorify the Lamb.
We will glorify the Lord of Lords,
Who is the great "I Am."

He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth,
He is Lord of all who live.
He is Lord above the universe,
All praise to Him we give.

Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty,
We will bow before His throne.
We will worship Him in righteousness,
We will worship Him alone.

O Halle-lu-jah to the King of Kings,
Halle-lu-jah to the Lamb.
Halle-lu-jah to the Lord of Lords,
Who is the great "I Am."

PASSAGE

- Daily Bible Reading:** There are about 20 reasons why God's judgment was so richly deserved against His people (17:7-18). What were they?

Day 1: Chapter 14

Day 2: Chapter 15

Day 3: Chapter 16

Day 4: Chapter 17:1-23

Day 5: Chapter 17:24-41

Family Bible Night: 2 Kings 14-17

For more than a generation, the Assyrians had been relatively quiet, but now it was time for the Lord to use them to discipline the northern tribes. The king of Israel at the time was Hoshea. The Assyrians forced Israel to pay tribute, which they did for a time. Meanwhile, Hoshea made negotiations with Egypt in an attempt to overthrow Assyria. When Shalmaneser, the king of Assyria, heard about this plot, he took King Hoshea captive and besieged Samaria, the capital of Israel. The northern kingdom of Israel was taken captive by the Assyrians and deported in 722 B.C.

The main reason for Israel's being punished in this severe manner was idolatry. The Lord spoke through the prophet Isaiah: "Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my anger, in whose hand is the club of my wrath! I send him against a godless nation, I dispatch him against a people who anger me" (Isa. 10:5-6a). God was no longer going to be patient with Israel, whose idolatrous ways had sunk them into the depths of sin. God used the Assyrians as a "rod of His anger" to punish His people.

God was not helpless to rescue Israel from her enemies. In fact, He was the One who raised them up and brought them to destroy His people. Nor had God broken His covenant with the nation, for a remnant of each of the northern tribes had long since fled to the tribe of Judah (cf. 2 Chr. 11:16; Acts 26:7). Neither had God not warned them time after time, for He had sent His prophets throughout the land calling the people back to God. Israel's lack of faith in God led to their disobedient idolatry and rebellion against the Lord.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Sin Must Be Punished!

The lesson that God desired for the Israelites to learn throughout much of their history was very simple: fear God and obey Him. Yet for centuries, starting with the wilderness wanderings, the people of Israel had a difficult time doing what was right. Being enticed by the temptations of the land, namely idolatry, they had grown accustomed to living life without God. This indifference and moral apathy led them to increasing levels of sin.

Finally, the Lord responded severely and punished the northern tribes for their complacency, even though God had blessed them tremendously when they deserved far less. We should learn from the mistakes of Israel that God does take sin seriously and so should we (cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-13). Sin must be punished. There will come a point in time when God's patience will end and He will respond with serious judgment. God gave repeated warnings to the people through His prophets, but they refused to listen. May we not be like Israel! May we, instead, learn to obey the Lord and trust Him with all our might!

PRAYER

Overcoming Idolatry

Believe it or not, we all struggle with the heart attitudes of idolatry. The most important one is greed (Col. 3:5). Greed simply means to want more. What is the solution to greed? Being satisfied in God. How do we do that? Think and pray about the awesome attributes of God. Read a psalm (Psalm 36 for example), and praise God for who He is. Tonight at your prayer time, think about earthly things that you really want and praise God for the ways He is better than those things.