

THE STORY FOR CHILDREN

The Story For Children devotionals are broken up into three days. Each day has something to read together, do together, think about together, and pray together with your children. These times together with your family will help your children understand and live out The Story of God's Word!

Chapter 17 – The Kingdom's Fall Day One – Last Chance

Today's reading: Pages 150-151

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. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 17 – The Kingdom’s Fall Day Two – Sadness

Today’s reading: Pages 152-153

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

Summary: Jeremiah’s heart is sad as he reflects on God’s judgment 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 flowers 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’ name, Amen.

Chapter 17 – The Kingdom’s Fall

Day Three – Tell It

Today’s reading: Pages 154-155

This reading covers: Ezekiel 1-2, 36

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.

Also read: 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.