

Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
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- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
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- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What did God promise to do for His people who were mistreated?
- What did God do to fix our sin problem?
- Why can we trust God even in hard times?

Obadiah the Prophet

Obadiah

STORY POINT: GOD PROMISED TO RESTORE ISRAEL AND RULE THE EARTH AS KING.

God had news about a country called Edom. The people who lived in Edom were like brothers to the people in Judah. Both groups were descendants of Isaac's twin sons, Jacob and Esau. The people in Edom came from the family of Esau; God's people came from the family of Jacob.

The people of Edom didn't love God. The people thought they were better than everyone else. The Edomites didn't get along with God's people in Judah. God said He was going to punish Edom.

"Listen up!" God said. "Out of all the nations, you will be the least important. No one will like you. You were proud, and I will punish you. You thought you were safe, but I will bring you down."

Obadiah's message for the people of Edom was bad news. God said to Edom, "You were cruel to the people in Judah, so you will be punished. Every bad thing you did to others will be done to you."

"The Day of the LORD is near," Obadiah warned.

Obadiah's message from God had good news for God's people. "My people will have the land that belongs to Edom," God said. God's people would return to their homes and God would take care of His people, but Edom's punishment was forever.

Christ Connection: Like God's people were mistreated by the people of Edom, Jesus was mistreated by His own people. God will punish sin. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment we deserve for our sin. We can trust Jesus to make wrong things right.

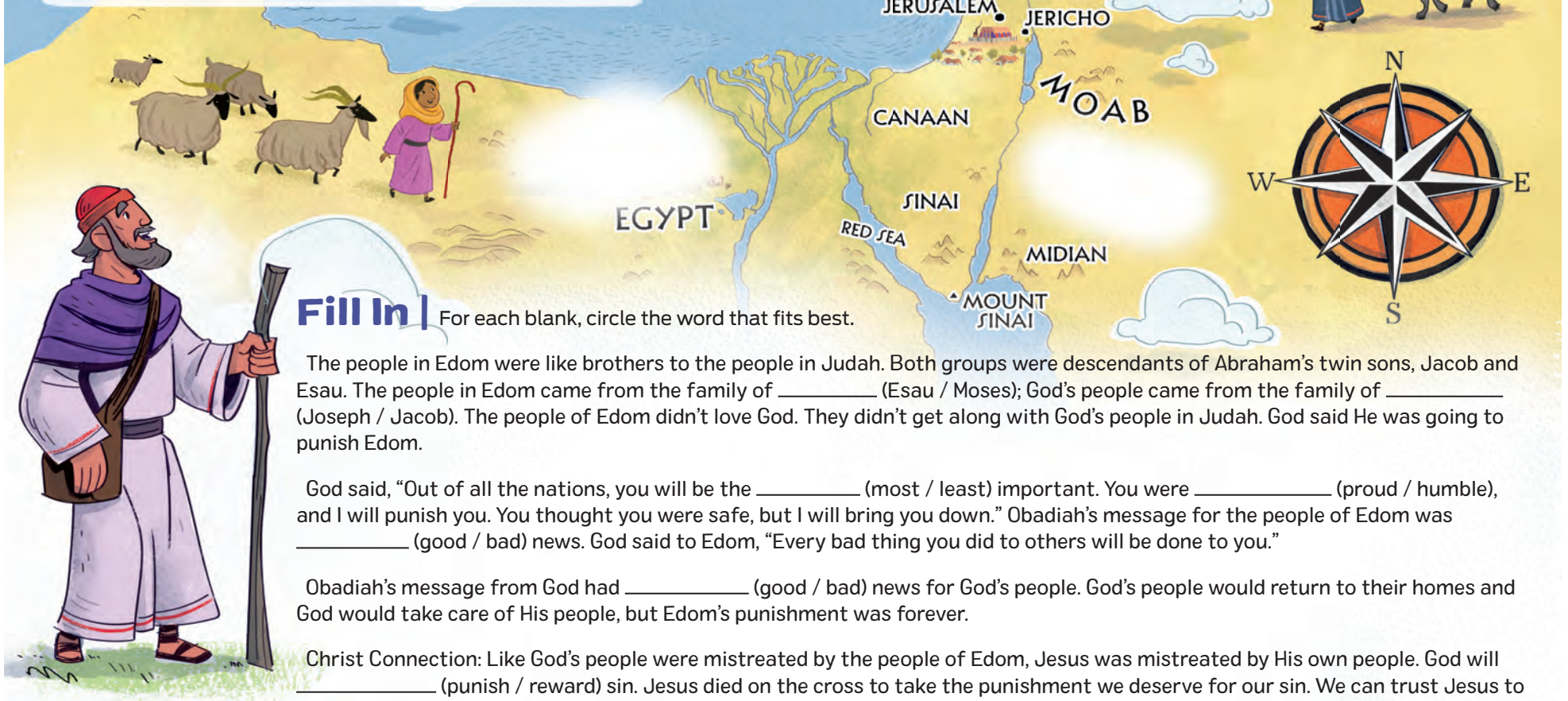


FOLD

Map Mania

Follow the instructions to label the map.

1. Draw a boat in the Mediterranean Sea.
2. Write *Edom* in the area south of Moab.
3. Draw pyramids north of Egypt.
4. Write *Assyria* in the area north of Nineveh.
5. Write *Babylonia* in the area south of Nineveh.
6. Underline the names of cities you've heard of.
7. Draw a square around the area of Edom.



Fill In |

For each blank, circle the word that fits best.

The people in Edom were like brothers to the people in Judah. Both groups were descendants of Abraham's twin sons, Jacob and Esau. The people in Edom came from the family of _____ (Esau / Moses); God's people came from the family of _____ (Joseph / Jacob). The people of Edom didn't love God. They didn't get along with God's people in Judah. God said He was going to punish Edom.

God said, "Out of all the nations, you will be the _____ (most / least) important. You were _____ (proud / humble), and I will punish you. You thought you were safe, but I will bring you down." Obadiah's message for the people of Edom was _____ (good / bad) news. God said to Edom, "Every bad thing you did to others will be done to you."

Obadiah's message from God had _____ (good / bad) news for God's people. God's people would return to their homes and God would take care of His people, but Edom's punishment was forever.

Christ Connection: Like God's people were mistreated by the people of Edom, Jesus was mistreated by His own people. God will _____ (punish / reward) sin. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment we deserve for our sin. We can trust Jesus to make wrong things _____ (right / worse).

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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What promise did God keep to His people in exile?
- How has God been faithful in your life?
- How can you trust God this week?

The Captives Came Home

Ezra 1-3

STORY POINT: GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE TO BRING HIS PEOPLE HOME.

Cyrus, king of Persia, had taken over Babylon. Cyrus said, "Let all of God's people go back to Jerusalem so they can rebuild the Lord's temple." The exile was over! God's people were free to go back to their homes.

Zerubbabel and the high priest led God's people back to Judah. They settled in their hometowns and set up their houses. Then the people met together in Jerusalem to rebuild the Lord's temple.

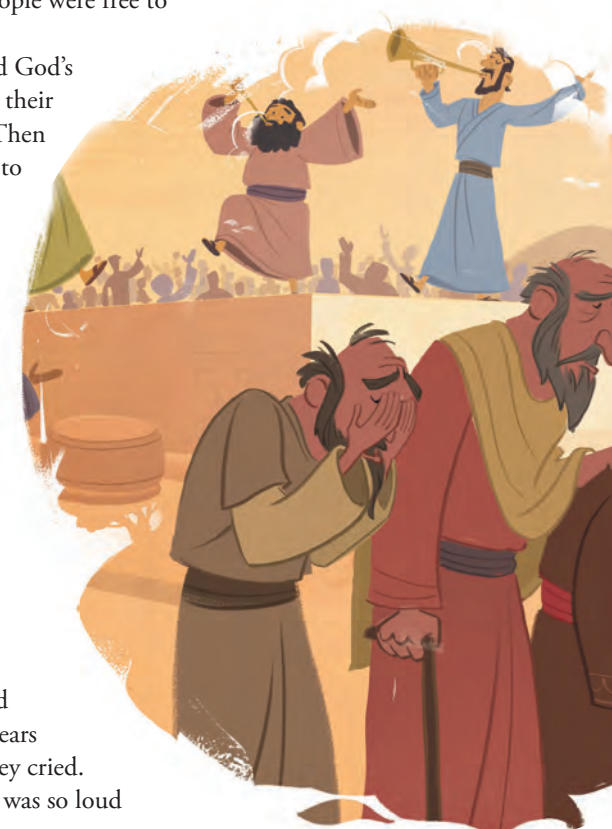
First, the priests rebuilt the altar. When the altar was finished, they offered burnt offerings to God.

Then God's people gave money to stonecutters and carpenters who would work on God's temple. They paid people to bring cedar logs to Jerusalem. They laid the foundation of the temple.

When the foundation was finished, the priests put on special clothes, and the people praised God.

Not everyone was happy though. Some of the older people remembered what the temple had looked like 70 years ago, before it had been destroyed. They cried. The noise of the crying and shouting was so loud that the people could be heard far away.

Christ Connection: Zerubbabel led God's people back to the temple to rebuild it. The temple was the place where God met with His people on earth. Jesus came to earth to rescue God's people. One day Jesus will return to restore a greater home for all of God's people, and we will spend eternity with Him.



FOLD

Set the Scene | Set the scene for today's Bible story. In the top space, draw a few people who are happy. In the bottom space, draw three people who are sad.



The Long Way Back

Use the key to decode the special message.

G _ D


K _ P _
 

H _ S

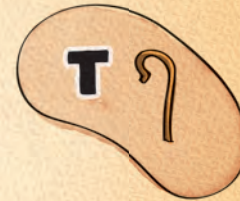

PR _ _ _ S _ **_ _**
     

BR _ NG


H _ S


P _ _ PL _
 

H _ _ _ .
  



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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What was the response of God's people when they met difficulties while rebuilding?
- Why don't we worship in a temple today?
- How can we give glory to God this week?

The Temple Was Rebuilt

Ezra 4-6; Haggai

STORY POINT: GOD'S PEOPLE REBUILT THE TEMPLE TO GLORIFY GOD.

After living in Babylon for 70 years, God's people were home! A group had returned to Jerusalem to rebuild God's temple. They had started the work, but their neighbors didn't want them to rebuild the temple, so they stopped building. God sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the people. So the leaders—Zerubbabel and Joshua—started working on the temple again.

A governor named Tattenai noticed God's people had started to rebuild the temple again. Tattenai sent a report to King Darius in Persia. This is what Tattenai's letter to King Darius said: "The people in Judah are building the temple of the great God. They said King Cyrus gave them permission to rebuild the temple. Please search the royal records to see if this is true."

King Darius's officials searched the royal records for Cyrus's order. They found it.

So King Darius sent a letter back to Tattenai. He gave this order: "Stay away from the workers in Jerusalem. Don't bother them or try to stop them. Give them whatever they need."

Tattenai and the other officials obeyed King Darius's order. The Jewish leaders kept building, and they finally finished the temple of God! The people celebrated and made offerings to God.

Christ Connection: God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people. Now God dwells not in the temple, but directly with His people. Jesus provided something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.



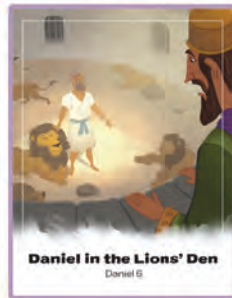
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Order of Events | Number these Bible stories in the order they happened. Then arrange each corresponding letter to discover the name of an important place in today's Bible story.

L



E



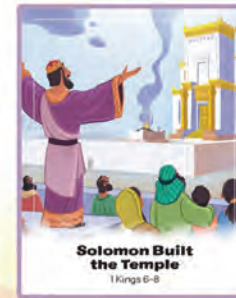
T



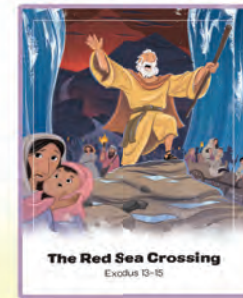
M



P



E



To Build Again

Find the words of today's story point in the picture, and write them in order. Also find 10 scrolls.



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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- How did God react to those who turned their back on Him or disobeyed Him?
- How is Jesus different than any other king?
- What have you put your hope in?

Zechariah the Prophet

Zechariah

STORY POINT: ZECHARIAH SAID THE MESSIAH IS COMING.

When God's people stopped rebuilding God's temple, God sent prophets to give His people a message. Zechariah was one of the prophets who told the people what God said. This was God's message: "Return to Me, and I will return to you."

One night, Zechariah saw eight visions; each was a different message from God about something that was going to happen. First, Zechariah saw a man riding on a red horse. Second, Zechariah saw four horns. Third, he saw four craftsmen. Fourth, Zechariah saw a man going out to measure Jerusalem, but the city could not be measured because it was too big for walls. Fifth, Zechariah saw a solid gold lampstand. Sixth, Zechariah saw a flying scroll. In the seventh vision, a woman sat inside a basket. In the eighth vision, Zechariah saw four chariots.

God told Zechariah to collect silver and gold to make crowns and place them on the head of Joshua, the high priest. Joshua's crowns meant that a special king was coming to bring peace for everyone. "Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey," Zechariah said. God promised to bless His people and punish the rest of the nations for their sin. One day everyone will worship the Lord.

Christ Connection: God was going to help His people and give them a different kind of king. Jesus is the King who came and rode humbly on a donkey, just as Zechariah said. Because Zechariah's prophecy came true in Jesus, we can have hope and forgiveness of sins when we trust in Jesus.



FOLD

Set 'Em Straight

Unscramble the Bible book names of the Major and Minor Prophets. Use the table of contents in your Bible if you need help.

MAJOR PROPHETS

1. AIASIH

2. MIREEHJA

3. MOLEINASATNT

4. KIEZEEL

5. AILDEN

MINOR PROPHETS

1. AEOSH

2. LEJO

3. MOAS

4. HIOBAAD

5. OAJNH

6. CMAIH

7. MHNAU

8. AKUBHKKA

9. EHHAPAINZ

10. IGAGAH

11. AHARIZCEH

12. AMACHIL

Vision Drawings

Read each set of verses in your Bible. Draw pictures to show what visions Zechariah had.

Zechariah 1:8

Zechariah 1:18,20

Zechariah 2:1-3

Zechariah 3:1

Zechariah 4:2-3

Zechariah 5:1-2

Zechariah 5:5-7

Zechariah 6:1-3

