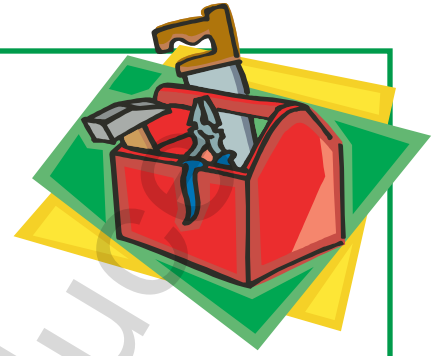


God's People Become Slaves



Theme: Obedience — Knowing God punishes disobedience

Starters and Scenarios

Michelle really wanted a portable CD player she could take with her to the track or mall, or wherever she went. Her parents told her they would help her buy a nice set if she would work to pay for part of it. In addition to her regular chores, Michelle did special jobs around the house, washed her dad's car, and worked at any job she could to earn some money. After a few months, Michelle earned the amount she needed to buy the CD player.

The CD player had a good sound, and Michelle used it a lot. Michelle's parents helped her buy CDs that had good music with decent lyrics. Michelle was careful to stay away from songs with bad lyrics. One day, Michelle's friend, Joy came over and brought her CD collection. Joy had a few CDs Michelle was not allowed to have. The girls listened to the CDs one afternoon. Michelle liked one group a lot, though some of the lyrics were not good.

Michelle decided to buy the group's CD. She intended to play these songs only every now and then, and hide the CD from her parents. It wasn't long before Michelle was careless, and her mom found the CD. She warned Michelle about the words to the songs and took the CD. Michelle really liked the music, so she searched around the house until she found the CD. After a few days of Michelle's listening to the bad music, her parents discovered she had the CD again. This time, they took the CD, the CD player, and all other CDs. Michelle lost it all because she would not listen to her parents.

Something like this on a much larger scale happened to the nation of Judah many years ago. The people of Judah were God's people, and He often spoke to them about what to do and how to live. For a while, the people of Judah listened to God and followed His will. But as time passed, the people started serving the gods of other nations. God warned them about this sin, but hardly anyone listened. They continued to do what they wanted to, until finally God took away their land and removed them to a foreign land. This is called Judah's "captivity."

Illustrations and Applications

1. *Objective: Introduce the theme of "Building Your Life for God"*

Outfit the classroom with various toy and real building tools and pictures of building tools for teaching board(s), games, door decoration, accents for posters, desk name tags, and attendance cards. Introduce the theme of *Building Your Life for God* by having students point out various tools around the room and discussing how they might be used to build something. Then have students point out important tools around the room that we must use to learn more about God and His Word — Bibles, posters, time line, maps. Discuss using these tools to learn God's Word and using God's Word to change our hearts and build our lives for Him.

2. *Objective: Illustrate Israel's captivity by the Babylonians*

Load the *Build Your Life for God Tool Apron* with graphics related to the lesson and a chain or rope. Mark with masking tape places in the classroom to designate Judah and Jerusalem and Babylon. Establish the setting of the captivity on a time line. Tell the story of the Israelites being taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Discuss why God allowed this to happen. "Bind" the students with a rope or chain and lead them captive from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Some good resources for the Babylonian captivity may be found at www.bible-history.com/map_babylonian_captivity/

3. *Objective: Help students know how to pronounce names*

- The name to work on in this lesson is Nebuchadnezzar. Write the phonetic spelling and the pronunciation guide on a poster board strip. Start a BIG Word Wall display to add names from future lessons. For planning purposes, be aware that a total of eighteen words will be suggested to be included on the wall.

Say the word and then let the students say it a few times with you. Have 3x5 cards with letters spelling Nebuchadnezzar on them, one letter on each card. Pass out the cards and have the students put them together correctly on the floor to spell the Babylonian king's name.

Nebuchadnezzar nĕb'ə kəd nĕz'ər NEB eh ked NEZ er

4. *Objective: Demonstrate that refusing to listen ruins our relationship with God*

- Choose two students to demonstrate. If no one wants to be the one who didn't listen, you can play that part. Give each student a piece of tissue paper, a Styrofoam cup with a small amount of water in it, and a roll of scotch tape. Give each one a box to wrap like a gift. Warn them what will happen to the paper if it gets wet. One listens and is careful, the other is not. His water spills and the tissue paper disintegrates. Discuss how not paying attention to God ruins our relationship with God. Talk about why the Israelites had to leave their land and be slaves in Babylon.

**Building
Blocks Ideas**

LISTEN; BE SORRY

Teaching Objectives for Level 4

- Describe Judah's reaction to the prophets.
- Describe God's punishment of Judah.
- Tell what God promised His people.

**Things to Get or Do
for this Lesson**

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