



BK WEEKEND

February 8 & 9, 2020

Obadiah the Prophet (Lesson 1)

Obadiah

Unit: Return to the Land

Unit Bible Verse: Jeremiah 29:11

Note: We are starting a new 4-lesson unit called, "Return to the Land."

Bible Story: God sent a message to Obadiah (oh buh DIGH uh) the prophet in a vision. God had news about a country called Edom (EE duhm). 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. They worshiped false gods. They lived in the mountains and trusted the mountains and their own strength to protect them. The people thought they were better than everyone else.

The Edomites didn't get along with God's people in Judah. When the Babylonians took over the city of Jerusalem, the people in Edom just sat back and watched. They didn't try to protect Judah. The people of Edom even went into Jerusalem and took things that didn't belong to them. 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. When Judah needed your help, you stood back and did nothing. You laughed and were happy that they were attacked. Every bad thing you did to others will be done to you."

"The Day of the Lord is near," Obadiah warned. "Every evil thing you did to others will be done to you." God said that the bad things that were happening to His people in Judah were only for a little while. God would deliver His people. "But when I punish you, Edom," God said, "everything will be destroyed."

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.

Questions/Discussion

- 1) How do you feel when someone is mean to you?
- 2) How was Jesus mistreated? How does knowing Jesus was mistreated to save us from sin help us when people mistreat us?

Christ Connection: The people of Edom mistreated God's people. Later, God's people mistreated His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for people's sin. We can trust Jesus to make wrong things right.

Family Activity: Write letters of love and encouragement to family members.

Prayer: *Dear God, thank You for never leaving Your people. Even though things seemed like they would never get better, You promised to restore Your people, and did exactly that. You can restore us, too In Jesus' name, amen.*



Unit Summary: After the Israelites' disobedience led to 70 years of exile in Babylon, God kept His promise to bring His people home to Judah. Prophets encouraged the people to rebuild the temple. The prophet Zechariah told of a future King who would come humbly on a donkey. God later kept His promise to send King Jesus. *Kids will be learning from the books of Ezra, Haggai and Zechariah.*

Lesson Summary: The conflict between Edom and Israel originates in the story of Jacob and Esau. The twins struggled in the womb, and their mother, Rebekah, asked God why. God explained that from her womb would come two nations, and the older would serve the younger. (Gen. 25:23)

The nation of Israel descended from Jacob (the younger), and the nation of Edom descended from Esau (the older). God promised to Jacob the same promises He made to Abraham (Gen. 28:15), but Esau was a godless man who despised God's promises. (Heb. 12:16)

For centuries, the two families were at odds. When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, the king of Edom refused to let the Israelites pass through his country to get to the promised land. (Num. 20:14-21) Edom fought against Israel on several occasions. (See 2 Chron. 20:2; 28:17; 2 Kings 8:20-22.)

The Book of Obadiah is God's message about Edom in response to their sin—specifically their gloating over the Babylonian invasion of Jerusalem. When the Babylonians invaded Jerusalem, the people of Edom didn't help. Like an envious brother, Edom was glad to see Judah overcome. In fact, Edom was a guilty participant in the action against Judah. (Obad. 11)

The prophet Obadiah detailed the charges against Edom, announced their guilt, and handed down the sentence from the Lord: Edom would be totally destroyed. No remnant of Esau's family would remain. On the other hand, Obadiah said God's people would be restored.

God said the people of Edom would get what they deserved. "As you have done, it will be done to you; what you deserve will return on your own head" (Obad. 15). God's rule is just. The fate of the Edomites might as well be ours. But here's the reality: As you have done, it was done to Christ; what you deserve was returned on His head. Jesus is King, and one day He will deliver His people from their enemies once and for all.

As you talk with your kids this week, emphasize that 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.

Unit Key Memory Verse: Jeremiah 29:11

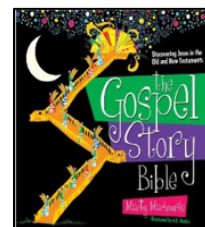
- *Age 2 – 3:* I know the plans I have for you...a hope."
- *Age 4 – 5:* "I know the plans I have for you...plans...to give you a future and a hope."
- *Grade K – 3 & Preteen:* "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Preteen Daily Readings: This week's (**February 3**) readings are Romans 13:1, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Romans 12:19, Psalm 31:17, Psalm 47:8-9 and Jeremiah 17:13.

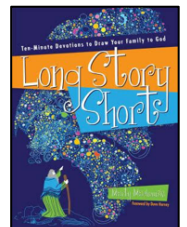
Family Devotional: Our desire is for kids to hear from the Bible first at home and then have the message be reinforced at church on the weekend. In addition to, or in lieu of the provided story, you can use these devotionals with your family. These can be purchased in the Berean Café.



Age 2-5, Page 148



Grade K-3, No Story



Grade 4-5, No Story