

Katie



EZEKIEL 10

THE GLORY OF GOD DEPARTS

Scripture: Ezekiel 10:4

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: None

Ask:

Who remembers the lesson with the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire for the Israelites? (From Exodus 40 Lesson).

What was our teacher wrapped in butcher paper “fire” representing? (The glory of God) When God had Solomon build the Temple, God said his name would rest there. The same glory and name that guided the Israelites and protected them during their desert wanderings was going to dwell in the Temple. When Solomon built the temple and dedicated it to God, God promised to dwell there and always fix his eyes there. But, God promised, if you serve other gods, I will reject this temple and cut off Israel from the land I have given them (1 Kings 9:3-9)

Here, we are going to see God keep his promise. Remember what we’ve talked about. The Israelites have abandoned God and served and worshiped other gods. So God is going to depart from the Temple and allow his people to be taken captive to another land.

Have you ever had to go to timeout or had a special toy taken away from you by your parents? Did they tell you to do something and say if you didn’t they would either put you in timeout or take the toy away? Well, this is a very extreme timeout for the people of God. He warned them again and again to turn back to them. But they refused. Now, he has to allow them to face the consequences of their actions.

Read: Ezekiel 10:4 and 10:18-19

Explain:

Slowly, almost reluctantly throughout the chapter, God removes his presence. Please know, God isn’t leaving his people. He promised he would not leave nor forsake. But he is removing his protection from the Temple. He is about to allow his people to face the consequences of their sin. He does the same with us. When we sin and turn from God, he doesn’t leave us, but he does allow us to face the consequences of our sin. If you throw a rock at your mom’s favorite vase, and lie about it, you will still need to confess and likely replace the vase. That is a consequence to the choice you made. But God is ALWAYS faithful to forgive our sins and put us in right standing with him. He doesn’t leave us, but he does allow us to see the fallout from our sin.

Explain Continued:

The same is about to happen to the Israelites. They're going to timeout for 70 years because of their idolatry. God is going to allow the Babylonians to take them as captives to Babylon (remember when we studied Daniel?). But, he promises that they will return, that his glory will return, and that the people who treat his people badly (the Babylonians) will be punished. That is what much of Ezekiel is about: God telling what will occur to the Israelites for their disobedience and telling what will happen to the Babylonians who destroy the Temple and capture the people.

Play a Game:

Have the kids play a game similar to "Cops and Robbers." The Babylonians will capture the Israelites and place them in jail. The kids have to stay in jail for 70 seconds to represent their captivity. If the Babylonians get all the Israelites, have the kids switch roles and play again.

Main Point:

God loves us so much. Because he loves us, he disciplines us. He teaches us. If a police officer caught a robber again and again and never put them in jail, would they be a good police officer? If you never turned in any of your homework to your teacher, would they be a good teacher if they gave you an A? If you worked at a job and never went to it, would you expect them to fire you? If you broke all of your parents rules, would you expect them to never punish you? The same is true with God. He allows us to face consequences so we can learn to be like him. He loves us too much to allow us to do whatever we want, because he knows that will only lead to our destruction. But thankfully, he forgives when we ask. When we return to him and confess, he welcomes us back with joy and open arms. After their 70-year timeout, God brought the Israelites back. They rebuilt his Temple and reinhabited the land. Hopefully we won't need timeouts that last that long!

Memorize: Ezekiel 10:18

Close in Prayer