



JEREMIAH 35 & 52

THE REKABITES & THE FULFILLMENT

Scripture: Jeremiah 35, 52:12-16, 27b-30

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Main Takeaway: The Rekabites showed themselves faithful and were rewarded for it. Meanwhile, the prophecies of Jeremiah were fulfilled because of Judah's unfaithfulness.

Supplies: Two baking dishes, one filled with boiling water, the other filled with cold water, a balloon, a water/soda bottle.

Ask:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (How the King burned the scroll of Jeremiah). Today, we're going to finish our study of Jeremiah! You guys have learned quite a bit. Let's think back over our lessons and see what you remember. Have the kids tell you what they remember from the lessons. If they struggle to do this, prompt them with questions like these:

- What did the anchors we made represent? (Hope. God told the people they were going to go through hardships, but he showed them there would be hope of future restoration)
- What did our eggmen remind us to do? (Stand up for what's right).
- Who was the Righteous branch? (Jesus)
- What is the armor of God and how does it help us? (Helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness, belt of truth, shoes of peace, shield of faith, sword of the Spirit; it protects from the schemes of the enemy.)
- What was the serious wound of Israel? (Idolatry)
- Were they going backward or forward? (Backward)

Explain:

Today, we're going to finish our study with a story. This story is found in the middle of Jeremiah, but we saved it for last because it is a good way to remember the main call of Jeremiah: to obey God.

Read: Jeremiah 35

Explain:

Do you notice the difference between the Rekabites and the Israelites?

- Someone tell me the rules the ancestor of the Rekabites told his children. (Not to drink wine, sow seed, or build houses.)
- Did they follow this? (Yes.)
- How is that different from the people of Judah? (God continually told them to turn from their evil ways and idols and obey his commands so they could live long in the land he gave them).
- Did they obey? (No).
- What is the result of their disobedience? (They are going to be removed from the land, just as God warned.

Do an Experiment:

Have two baking dishes. One filled with boiling water and the other filled with cold water. Optional: use blue and red food coloring to designate which is which. Place a balloon over the top of a water bottle or soda bottle. Place the bottle in the cold water. Notice that nothing happens. Now place it in the hot water and watch the balloon self-inflate. Return the bottle to the cold water, and watch it deflate again.

Explain:

While doing the experiment, explain that God calls each of us to follow him. He calls us to know him and come to him for salvation, but after that he calls us to follow him and obey. This means we learn his voice and follow it. When we do, we grow and grow (this said when the balloon is inflating). We grow in our understanding of him and of his voice. Our faithfulness in small things results in greater tasks and greater understanding of who he is. But when we disobey, when we don't follow him, we miss out on the blessings he has in store for us (bottle in the cold water). Just like the Rekabites were blessed to always have a person serving God because of their faithfulness to their ancestor, we are blessed when we learn God's voice and follow it. Our works don't save us, but out of our great love for God, we follow and obey him, trusting that his ways are better than our ways. The Israelites didn't do this, and because of their disobedience, they faced punishment and exile.

Read: Jeremiah 52:12-16, 27b-30 (beginning with "So Judah went into captivity...").

Explain:

It isn't a big surprise that all of Jeremiah's prophecies came true. He prophesied for around 40 years, trying to get the people to turn from their wicked ways, but eventually saw the words God gave him come to pass. Let us be more like the Rekabites than the people of Judah in this time. When we hear God's voice, let's not harden our hearts against Him, but let us obey and follow him, knowing that he has incredible things in store for those who remain faithful.

Memorize: Jeremiah 35:19

Close in Prayer