

Date | **November 27, 2022** Family Theme | **The Results of Disobedience**
Study Text | **2 Kings 25:1-21**

Objective: Family members walk in God's ways and guard against sin, knowing sin brings consequences.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events of 2 Kings took place after the kingdom was divided following the reigns of David and Solomon. The events of this section took place around 586 BC when Jerusalem and Judah fell to the Babylonians.

Bible Basics: Review the names and order of the first 27 books of the Old Testament this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word:

 2 Kings 25:1-21

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how God disciplines us when we continue in disobedience.



Key Truth: God Disciplines Those Who Lead His People Astray (2 Kings 25:1-7)

We learn from chapter 24 that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon put Zedekiah in power in Jerusalem as a vassal king under Nebuchadnezzar's authority. Zedekiah did what was evil in God's sight and also rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar (24:18-20). Nebuchadnezzar attacked and besieged the city. This was ultimately the result of ongoing evil by Zedekiah and most of his predecessors. They provoked the Lord to anger, causing Him to give Jerusalem and Judah over to their enemies just as He had promised (2 Kings 23:26-27; 24:20). Zedekiah's disobedience eventually resulted in suffering and death as horrible famine and fear came upon the city (verses 1-3). Finally, the Babylonians broke through the wall of the city causing Zedekiah and his army to flee. The Babylonians pursued and overtook the king, causing his army to scatter (verses 4-5). Zedekiah was captured and was forced to watch as the Babylonians slaughtered his sons. Then they gouged out his eyes, making the murder of his sons the last thing he ever witnessed. The king was then bound in chains and taken to Babylon (verses 6-7).



Key Truth: God Disciplines His People When They Continue in Disobedience (2 Kings 25:8-21)

One of the final responses of Nebuchadnezzar to Zedekiah's rebellion was to destroy Jerusalem. He appointed Nebuzaradan, his chief official and personal bodyguard, to burn the city, including the "house of the Lord" or the Temple. The loss of the Temple conveyed a strong message. The Temple symbolized God's presence and the worship of Yahweh. Its destruction, along with the loss of the Temple artifacts and the killing of the priests, symbolized the loss of genuine worship. Nebuzaradan also burned the king's palace and all the other major buildings (verses 8-9). The Babylonian army broke down the city walls leaving Jerusalem defenseless. Except for the poorest people left to work the land, the rest were taken away to Babylon as the third and final wave of deportations (verses 8-12). The furnishings and utensils of the Temple were all carried away into Babylon (verses 13-17). Many remaining Jewish officials were captured and executed (verses 18-21).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What are some typical consequences people face for disobeying authority or breaking the law?**
- **What are some examples of how people disobey God?**
- What are some typical consequences of disobeying God?
- **What are some typical blessings of obeying God?**
- **In what ways might our disobedience affect those around us?**
- How have you seen disobeying God result in bondage and destruction?
- In what area could you more fully obey God?

Everyday Extras

Would you rather be gored by a rhinoceros or bitten by a tiger? Would you rather be stung by a swarm of bees or bitten by a snake? Would you rather be buried to your neck in sand or stretched between two poles? Think of other terrible punishments and have your children choose between them. When God's people in the nation of Judah refused to obey Him, He sent a terrible punishment: they would be captured by the Babylonians and their homeland would be in ruins. Though it was a terrible punishment, God wanted His people to repent and return to Him.

The Ukraine has recently faced terrible bombing, the widespread exile of its people to other countries, and the loss of economic stability. Their country has been in ruins because of war. Have your children talk about the tragedies that children and their parents have faced in the Ukraine, then compare it to what the Israelites faced as their country was in ruins and their citizens were taken as captives to Babylon. The Israelites in Judah faced terrible consequences for their sins. We need to learn from them the joy of obeying God's Word and the importance of repentance.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned more about Jeremiah's obedience to the Lord. Jeremiah chose to obey God even when it was hard. He knew he could trust God to help him. Jeremiah learned to obey God's Word. **God's Word is Special** and helps me obey God every day.