



STUDENT DEVOTIONAL UNIT 16

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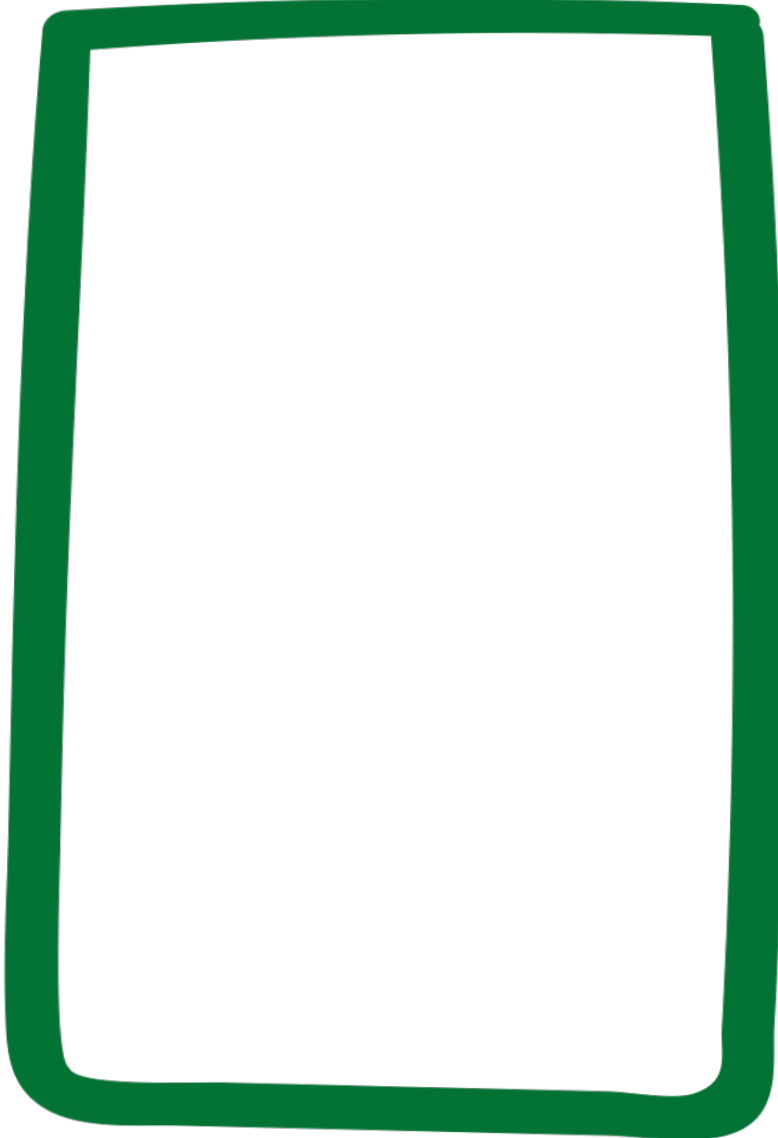
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UNIT 16: IN EXILE

Draw a gift you can give to Jesus.



Session 1: Jeremiah Encouraged God's People Jeremiah 29-30



Sunday, November 27

Where is
God?

God is in all places at all times
and is always with His people.

Memory Verse: Zephaniah 3:17

"The Lord your God is among you, a warrior who saves. He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will be quiet in His love. He will delight in you with singing."

Session I Monday



Before you read...

- ▶ Last week we read about how God sent His people to live in exile in Babylon. Exile means not being allowed to live in your own country.
- ▶ The people were far away from the land God had given them, but they were not far from God.
- ▶ We are going to read part of a letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent to God's people who were in exile in Babylon.



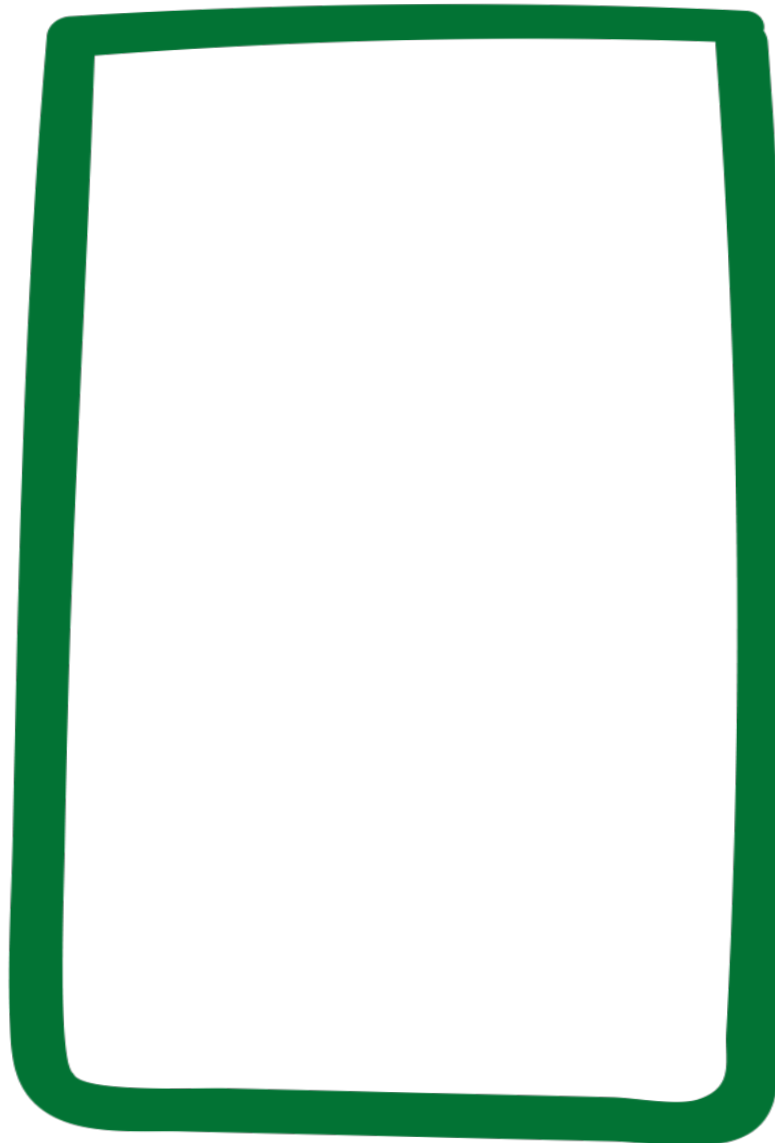
Read Jeremiah 29:4-6

- ▶ How do you think the people felt about being forced to live in another country?

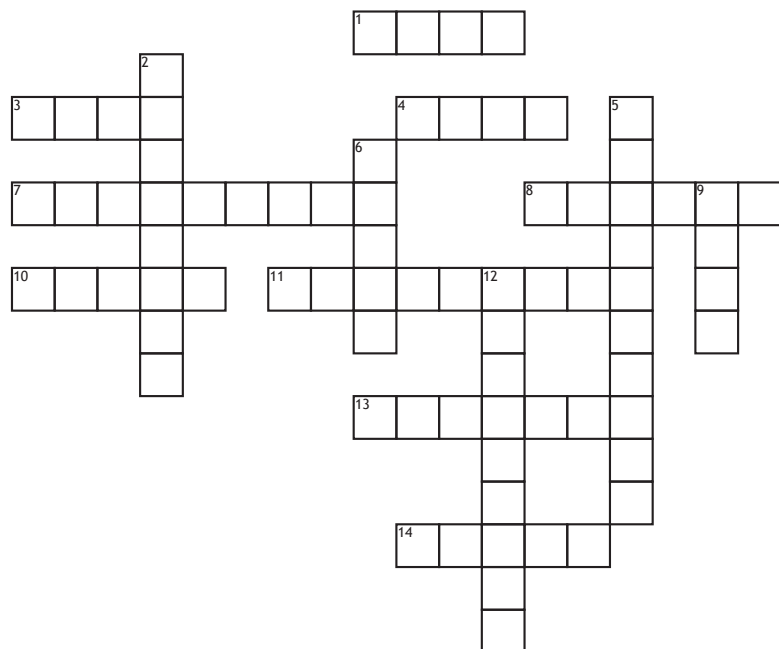
- ▶ List three things God told the people to do.

- ▶ Why do you think God wanted the people to do those things you listed?

Draw your favorite Bible story from this unit.



Psalm 139: God Knows Us Intimately



Across

1. Our future is secure, because God has written all our days in his _____ (Psalm 139:16)

3. God knows when you sit and when you _____ (Psalm 139: 2)

4. God _____ you together in your mother's womb (Psalm 139:13)

7. You should praise God because you are _____

_____ and wonderfully made? (Psalm 139:14)

8. God created your _____ being. (Psalm 139:13)

10. What is the darkness like for the Lord? (Psalm 139:12)

11. The knowledge of God is too _____ for us to know (Psalm 139:6)

13. Where can we go to escape from God?

14. God is still with us when we are _____ (Psalm 139:18)

Down

2. God has _____ you and he knows you (Psalm 139:1)

5. God knows all the words that we say _____; totally, fully (Psalm 139:4)

6. He knows when we go out and we are _____ down; sleeping. (Psalm 139:3)

9. What does God's thoughts outnumber? (Psalm 139:18)

12. God's _____ will guide you (Psalm 139:10) (2 words)



Before you read...

- ▶ We are still reading the letter the prophet Jeremiah sent to the Israelites who were in exile in Babylon.
- ▶ Jeremiah was in Jerusalem when he wrote this letter.
- ▶ This letter tells what God will do in their future. It is a very encouraging passage.



Read Jeremiah 29:10-14

- ▶ How many years did the Lord say His people would be in Babylon?

- ▶ What will God do after all of those years?

- ▶ Look at verse 13 again. What do you think it means to seek God with all of your heart?



Before you read...

- ▶ We are moving ahead to the next chapter in Jeremiah. The people are still in Babylon. Jeremiah is still encouraging the people.
- ▶ God told Jeremiah to 'Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you.' We get to read that book that he wrote—the book of Jeremiah in the Bible!
- ▶ When these passages talk about bringing God's people back, it means back to Jerusalem and the land God set apart for His people.



Read Jeremiah 30:1-3

- ▶ What is God going to do for His people?

- ▶ Do you think God's people were homesick? Have you ever been homesick? How does it feel?

- ▶ We read almost those same words yesterday. Why do you think God wants Jeremiah to tell His people the same thing again?



Before you read...

- ▶ You have already read this entire psalm!
- ▶ Today we are going to read the whole thing one more time! You can do it!!!



Read Psalm 139

- ▶ What is your favorite verse or verses in Psalm 139? Write it down.

- ▶ What does this verse say about God?

- ▶ What does God say in this verse about you?



Before you read...

- ▶ We are going to read this whole psalm this week.
- ▶ Today we will read what King David thinks of evil people.
- ▶ King David finishes the psalm with a plea for God to help him live the right way.



Read Psalm 139:19-24

- ▶ How does King David feel about the people who are evil?

- ▶ King David wants God to see what is in his heart. He wants God to see his every thought. He does not want to be like the evil people. Do you want God to see what is in your heart and your every thought? What would He find? (It is okay to admit there are some bad things in there sometimes!)



Before you read...

- ▶ Jeremiah is STILL encouraging God's people while they are in exile in Babylon! This is the middle of another message God wanted Jeremiah to give His people.



Read Jeremiah 30:10-11

- ▶ Fill in the blanks.
- ▶ God said to the people, "Do not be _____."
- ▶ "I am with you and will _____ you."
- ▶ God will completely _____ the nations that captured His people.

Session 1 Friday



Before you read...

- ▶ Guess what? Jeremiah IS STILL ENCOURAGING God's people!
- ▶ This passage gives a few more details about what will happen when God brings His people back to Jerusalem.



Read Jeremiah 30:18-22

- ▶ List three things that will happen after God brings His people back.

- ▶ Read verse 21 again. This verse talks about a new leader for God's people. God was going to raise up a new king—a forever king—for His people. Can you guess who is the forever king? (Hint: it starts with a J.)

- ▶ How do you think God's people felt when they heard Jeremiah's messages over and over again during their exile?



If you want to learn more about exile, scan this code to watch a video with your parents. It explains exile very well!

Bonus Session 2 Wednesday



Before you read...

- ▶ We are going to read this entire psalm this week.
- ▶ Today we will focus on when God made you.



Read Psalm 139:13-18

- ▶ When did God know who you were?

- ▶ God has so many priceless thoughts about you. All of the parts of you that he put together are wonderful! What do YOU think is wonderful about you?

Bonus Session 2 Tuesday



Before you read...

- ▶ We are going to read this whole psalm this week.
- ▶ Today we will focus on what is true about God.



Read Psalm 139:7-12

- ▶ What do these verses say about where you can find God?

- ▶ Where have you felt the presence of God? Think about places you pray, places you feel safe, places you feel peaceful.

**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give
you hope and a future.”**
— Jeremiah 29:11

P	O	I	U	H	U	O	Y	T	R	E	W	Q	A	A	S
X	M	B	N	Z	M	L	K	J	H	G	F	D	D	S	A
L	K	K	J	H	G	F	D	S	A	S	D	V	D	B	H
X	Y	N	D	I	M	W	X	D	Y	H	O	P	E	H	J
V	L	O	R	D	V	M	L	X	A	U	V	R	C	D	J
E	Q	W	F	E	H	S	C	I	T	T	S	J	L	J	L
D	R	K	C	Z	D	P	R	M	V	B	G	U	A	O	O
L	K	J	H	G	F	E	D	S	A	A	A	W	R	R	E
N	B	V	C	X	R	E	P	S	O	R	P	Z	E	M	R
M	L	D	E	E	A	Q	R	T	D	C	L	F	S	C	U
P	M	N	J	Y	C	B	C	D	E	E	A	E	M	M	T
O	S	S	F	J	L	G	W	R	U	X	N	X	F	N	U
O	I	U	Y	E	L	B	I	B	F	E	S	D	M	N	F
D	E	A	X	Q	L	N	M	V	R	H	H	T	S	E	A
Q	H	A	R	M	Z	T	U	I	E	P	F	E	F	S	M

Find these words from this week's lesson and Bible verse:

FUTURE	PLANS	LORD	YOU
HOPE	DECLARES	PROSPER	JEREMIAH
HARM	KNOW	GIVE	BIBLE

UNIT 16: IN EXILE

Bonus
Session 2
Monday

Session 2: Daniel Was Faithful Daniel I



Sunday, December 4

Where is
God?

God is in all places at all times
and is always with His people.

Memory Verse: Zephaniah 3:17

"The Lord your God is among you, a warrior who saves.
He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will be quiet in His
love. He will delight in you with singing."



Before you read...

- ▶ God loves everyone. All people. All sinners. People who lived a long time ago in the Bible. People who live right now. People who will live in the future.
- ▶ Each person is a unique child of God.
- ▶ Psalm 139 was written by King David and it has many really awesome truths about God and us as God's children.
- ▶ Psalm 139:13-14 was our memory verse in November. We are going to read this whole psalm this week. Today we will focus on what God knows about you.



Read Psalm 139:1-6

- ▶ What do these verses say God knows about you?

- ▶ What are some things that are unique and special about you?

Bonus Session 2: Every Person Matters Psalm 139



Sunday, January 1

Where is
God?

God is in all places at all times
and is always with His people.

Key Verse: Psalm 139:13-14

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."



Before you read...

- ▶ Have you heard the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den? Today's reading is about the same guy—Daniel! We are going to read about a time in his life before the lion's den.
- ▶ The book of Daniel was written while God's people were in exile in Babylon.
- ▶ The prophet, Daniel, was one of the many people who had to leave Jerusalem and live in Babylon under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar.
- ▶ The king wanted some Israelite men to come and serve him. He would treat these men better than all of the other Israelites.



Read Daniel 1:3-5

- ▶ Look at verse 4. List three of the features the king wanted to see in the young Israelite men.

- ▶ Where did the food for the men come from?

- ▶ What kind of food do you think would be at a king's table?

Session 2 Tuesday



Before you read...

- ▶ Remember, Daniel and his friends were God's people who were living in exile in Babylon.
- ▶ The king's chief official chose Daniel and his three friends as some of the young men who were to be trained to serve the king of Babylon. The chief official changed Daniel's name to Belteshazzar. We will still call him Daniel.
- ▶ God had very specific rules about what His people could eat. The food from the king's table did not follow God's rules.



Read Daniel 1:8-10

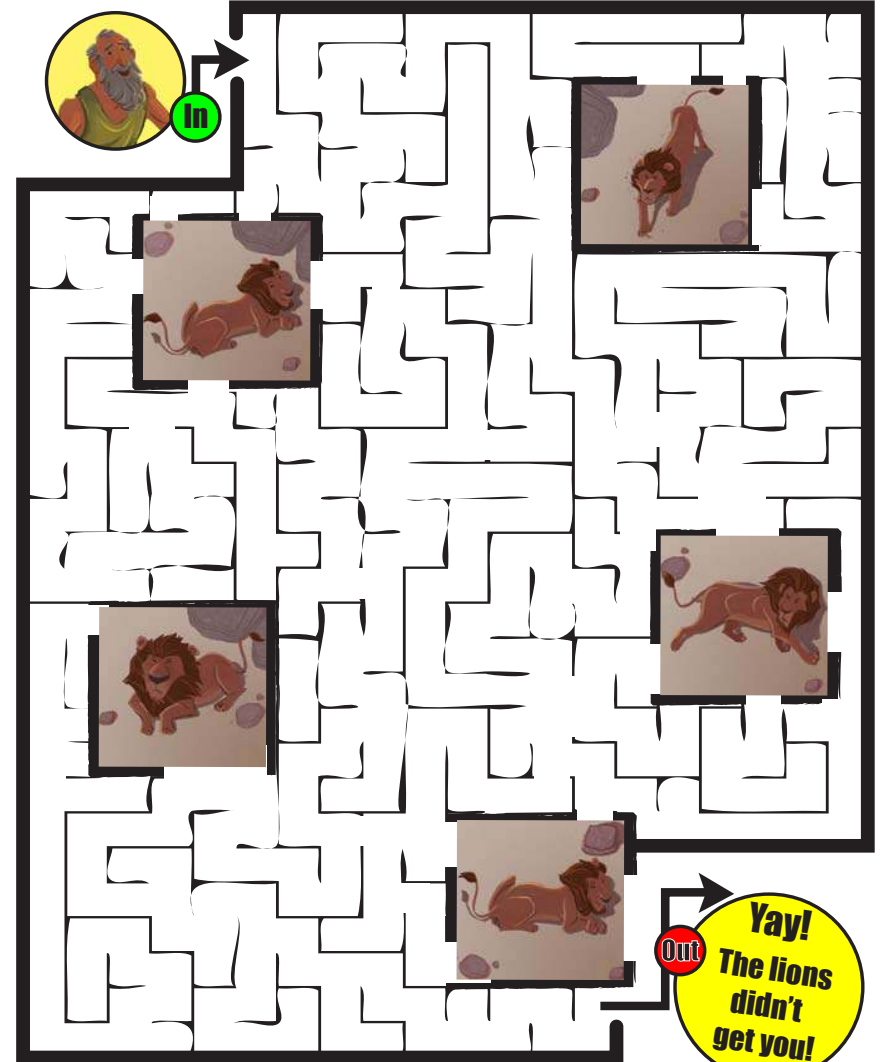
- ▶ Look at verse 8. What did Daniel decide NOT to do?

- ▶ Why do you think Daniel made that decision?

- ▶ Look at verse 9. What did God do for Daniel?

The Lions' Den

Can you be as successful with the lions as Daniel was?
Find your way through the maze without going through
any lion cages.





Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read that the lions did not hurt Daniel because he was innocent.
- ▶ The king was overjoyed that Daniel was saved. He was also mad at the rulers who tricked him into making the law.



Read Daniel 6:24-27

- ▶ What happened to the men who tricked the king?

- ▶ What did King Darius do in verse 26?

- ▶ List three things King Darius said about the God of Daniel.



Before you read...

- ▶ Daniel decided not to eat the food from the king's table because it was against God's rules.
- ▶ God was with Daniel and caused the king's chief official to show favor and compassion to Daniel.
- ▶ But, the chief official was afraid that the king would kill him if Daniel did not eat the king's food.



Read Daniel 1:11-14

- ▶ What did Daniel suggest he and his friends should eat for 10 days?

- ▶ Look at verse 13. What would they do at the end of the 10 days?

- ▶ What is your favorite vegetable? Would you like to eat only that vegetable and drink only water for 10 days?



Before you read...

- ▶ Daniel and his three friends were eating only vegetables and drinking only water for 10 days.
- ▶ The other young men were eating food from the king's table for those 10 days.



Read Daniel 1:15-17

- ▶ How did Daniel and his three friends look after the 10 days?

- ▶ What did God give to Daniel and his three friends?

- ▶ Why do you think God gave them those gifts?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read that Daniel was thrown into the lion's den as a punishment for praying to the One True God.
- ▶ We also read that King Darius thought God might rescue Daniel.



Read Daniel 6:19-23

- ▶ Who came to check on Daniel in the lion's den in the morning?

- ▶ Look at verse 22. Why did Daniel say the lions did not hurt him?

- ▶ God shows that He has the power to do anything, even shut the mouths of lions. Who do you think learned about God's power when Daniel was rescued?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read that Daniel still prayed to the One True God even though it was against the law.
- ▶ We also read that the king was greatly distressed and wanted to rescue Daniel.
- ▶ But, the other rulers really wanted to get rid of Daniel.



Read Daniel 6:15-18

- ▶ Look at verse 16. What did the king say to Daniel after he threw him into the lion's den?

- ▶ King Darius did not worship the One True God, but he still thought God might rescue Daniel. Do you think King Darius might decide to worship God after this?

- ▶ Read verse 17 again. Can you think of another time when a stone was rolled in front of a tomb and sealed?



Before you read...

- ▶ Daniel and his friends were healthier than the other men who ate the king's food.
- ▶ God blessed them with knowledge and understanding because they obeyed Him.
- ▶ Remember, all of the men were supposed to train for three years to serve the king.



Read Daniel 1:18-20

- ▶ At the end of the three years of training, did the king find any young men who were better than Daniel and his three friends?

- ▶ In fact, the king said Daniel and his three friends were 10 times better than who...?

- ▶ Who made Daniel and his friends so great? Why did He make them great?

Daniel and His Friends Eat Good Food

—Daniel 1

Eat Your Veggies

Daniel and his friends were in training to be servants of King Nebuchadnezzar. The king wanted his servants to be healthy, strong, and smart, so he fed them the same kind of food he ate himself.

But Daniel said, "Please let us eat only vegetables and drink only water for ten days. Then compare us with the other young men who eat the king's food. See for yourself who looks healthier."

Decode the message below to find out what happened.



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read that King Darius made a law that people could only pray to him or they would be thrown into a den of lions.
- ▶ Some of his rulers tricked him into making this law because they did not like Daniel and didn't want Daniel to rule the kingdom.



Read Daniel 6:10-14

- ▶ What did Daniel do when he heard about the law?

- ▶ How did the king feel when he heard Daniel was still praying only to the One True God? Look at verse 14.

- ▶ Why do you think the king wanted to save Daniel?

Bonus Session 1 Monday



Before you read...

- ▶ This month we read two passages from the book of Daniel, but our curriculum did not have us read about Daniel in the lion's den. Just like God rescued Daniel from the lions, God rescued us from our sins by sending Jesus to die and raise to life again.
- ▶ King Darius is now in charge of God's people who are in exile. He really liked Daniel and wanted to put him in charge of the whole kingdom.
- ▶ The other leaders and rulers did not like that Daniel would be in charge over them.



Read Daniel 6:3-9

- ▶ How does the end of verse 4 describe Daniel?

- ▶ What law did the leaders want the king to make people obey in verse 7?

- ▶ Do you think Daniel will obey their law?

UNIT 16: IN EXILE

Session 3: Daniel Served God Daniel 5



Sunday, December 11

Where is
God?

God is in all places at all times
and is always with His people.

Memory Verse: Zephaniah 3:17

"The Lord your God is among you, a warrior who saves.
He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will be quiet in His
love. He will delight in you with singing."



Before you read...

- ▶ We will continue to read about Daniel this week. He is several years older in this chapter.
- ▶ Daniel and the Israelites are still in exile in Babylon, but there is a new king, Belshazzar. He is not a good king. But God is still with Daniel.



Read Daniel 5:1-4

- ▶ Where did King Belshazzar get the gold and silver goblets they were drinking from?

- ▶ Did King Belshazzar and his nobles and wives and concubines worship the One True God or someone else?

- ▶ How do you think the One True God felt about King Belshazzar's actions in these verses?

Bonus Session 1: Daniel 6



Sunday, December 25

Where is
God?

God is in all places at all times
and is always with His people.

Key Verse: Daniel 6:27

"He rescues and delivers; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth, for he has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

Prophets Foretold Jesus' Birth Word Line Up

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circled spaces and use them for the final question.

RONB ○ _ _ _

ELRAIS _ _ _ ○

PPEHTSRO _ _ _ _ _ ○

AHDUJ _ _ _ _ _ ○

DCILH _ _ _ _ _ ○

NCPRIE _ _ _ _ _ ○

IIAAHS _ _ _ _ _ ○

CEAPE _ _ _ _ _ ○

YGHTMI ○ _ _ _ _ _

Micah said Jesus would be born in _ _ _ _ _



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read that King Belshazzar was misusing God's special gold and silver goblets from His temple and was worshipping other gods.
- ▶ This happened at a great banquet with more than a thousand people. Something pretty crazy happens next!



Read Daniel 5:5-9

- ▶ How did the king react when he saw the human hand writing on the wall?

- ▶ Who do you think was writing the message on the wall?

- ▶ Look at verse 7. Who did the king ask to explain the message? Could they explain it?

- ▶ Do you have a guess of who will be able to explain the message?

Session 3 Wednesday



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read about a human hand that wrote a message on the wall at King Belshazzar's banquet. No one could understand the message.
- ▶ But, the queen came to the king and said, "Hey, there is this guy named Daniel, who King Nebuchadnezzar appointed as a chief because he is really smart and can interpret dreams and understand riddles."



Read Daniel 5:13-16

- ▶ Look at verse 14. What abilities did the king say Daniel had?

- ▶ Who gave Daniel those abilities?

- ▶ Daniel honored God no matter what. Even the king and queen, who didn't worship God, could see that Daniel was special. God gives each of us gifts and abilities to use to honor Him. What gifts or abilities do you have that you could use to honor God? (This is a deep thinking question!! Ask your parents what they think!)

Session 4 Friday



Before you read...

- ▶ God sent the prophets to tell His people about Jesus, His birth, His life, His death, and His resurrection.
- ▶ Today we are going back to Isaiah to read what he wrote about Jesus' death and resurrection. Remember, Isaiah wrote this about 700 years before Jesus was born.
- ▶ God's plan has always been for us to be with Him. Our sin keeps us away, but Jesus' death and resurrection made it possible for us to be with Him forever!



Read Isaiah 5:5, 10-11

- ▶ Look at verse 5. How are we healed?

- ▶ Look at verse 11. What happens after Jesus' suffering?

- ▶ How does it make you feel to know that Jesus wanted to suffer and die for your sins?



Before you read...

- ▶ God sent the prophets to tell His people about Jesus, but not just His birth. The prophets told about other events in Jesus' life.
- ▶ Today we will read from the book of Zechariah, another prophet who told many things about Jesus. He wrote his book about 500 years before Jesus was born.



Read Zechariah 9:9

- ▶ What two words does Zechariah use to describe the King (Jesus) in this verse?

- ▶ What will the King be riding on when He comes?

- ▶ At Christmastime we think about Jesus' mother, Mary, riding on a donkey to Bethlehem, but Jesus also rode on a donkey when He was an adult. Do you know when He rode on a donkey? (You can find the answer in Matthew 21:1-7.)



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read that the king asked Daniel to explain the meaning of the writing on the wall from the mysterious human hand.
- ▶ Daniel tells the king that he will tell him what it means, but that he does not want the rewards the king offered him.
- ▶ Daniel then tells a story about the former king, Nebuchadnezzar and how he did not listen to God's warnings. We are going to skip that part and read what Daniel says about the current king, Belshazzar. (You can read it in verses 18-21 if you want.)



Read Daniel 5:22-24

- ▶ In verse 23, Daniel lists three things that King Belshazzar did wrong. What are they?

- ▶ Who did Daniel say sent the hand who wrote the message?

- ▶ Remember, the king was terrified when he saw the hand writing on the wall. How would you feel if you all of a sudden saw a hand writing on your wall?

Session 3 Friday



Before you read...

- ▶ Today we finally get to learn what the hand wrote on the wall and what it means!
- ▶ Even when Daniel explained the message, it can still be kind of hard to understand. Here is another explanation of what Daniel said the message meant:
 - ▶ God was going to end King Belshazzar's time as king.
 - ▶ King Belshazzar did not follow God's rules.
 - ▶ Even King Belshazzar's family will not rule anymore.
 - ▶ The kingdom will be split between two other kingdoms.



Read Daniel 5:25-31

- ▶ The Bible does not tell us what King Belshazzar said after Daniel explained the message. What do you think the king said or did?

- ▶ What happened to King Belshazzar that very night?

- ▶ God punished the king because he was not humble and did not honor God. We have a better king, Jesus, who always honored God and chose to humble Himself and die on the cross for our sin. Jesus made a way for you to be with God forever. How can you honor God today?

Session 4 Wednesday



Before you read...

- ▶ God sent prophets to tell His people about the coming King, His Son, who would rule forever. The prophets told many details about Jesus a long time before He was born.
- ▶ There are many places in the book of Isaiah that point to Jesus, but he was not the only prophet who told about Jesus.
- ▶ Today we will read from the prophet Micah who told where Jesus would come from. Micah wrote this message about 700 years before Jesus was born.



Read Micah 5:2-4

- ▶ Where does verse 2 say the ruler will come from?

- ▶ Where was Jesus born? (You can find the answer in Luke 2:4-7.)

- ▶ Look at verse 4. How far will His greatness reach?

Session 4 Tuesday



Before you read...

- ▶ This month we have learned that God is in all places at all times and is always with His people.
- ▶ God sent prophets to tell His people that He promised to send Immanuel—God with us—Jesus.
- ▶ This week we are looking at five different places in the Old Testament where prophets told of God's promise to send Immanuel.



Read Isaiah 9:6–7

- ▶ What names does Isaiah call Jesus in verse 6?

- ▶ What is your favorite name for Jesus?

- ▶ How long does Isaiah say that Jesus will rule?



Bible Pathway Adventures

BIBLE QUIZ

BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST

Match the question with the answer on the right.

Questions

- ___ Which city was the king's palace?
- ___ What was Daniel's Babylonian name?
- ___ Which king had a feast using the gold and silver cups from the Temple in Jerusalem?
- ___ What began writing on the wall at the feast?
- ___ What was the meaning of the writing on the wall?
- ___ What reward did Daniel receive?
- ___ What happened to the king after the feast?
- ___ Who could not explain the meaning of the writing to the king?
- ___ Who did the queen mother say could understand the writing?
- ___ Which king captured Daniel and brought him to Babylon?

Answers

1. Babylon
2. Astrologers, diviners, and exorcists
3. God will give your kingdom to the Medes and Persians
4. He was dressed in purple, a gold chain & given an important job
5. Fingers of a human hand
6. He lost his life
7. Belteshazzar
8. Nebuchadnezzar
9. Belshazzar
10. Daniel

UNIT 16: IN EXILE

Session 4
Monday

Session 4: God Is Present With Us Isaiah, Micah, Zechariah



Sunday, December 18

Where is
God?

God is in all places at all times
and is always with His people.

Memory Verse: Zephaniah 3:17

"The Lord your God is among you, a warrior who saves.
He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will be quiet in His
love. He will delight in you with singing."



Before you read...

- ▶ We have been learning that even when God's people sinned and went into exile, God was still with them.
- ▶ Just like God promised His people that their exile would end, He promised He would send a King to rescue them from their biggest problem: sin.
- ▶ It is almost Christmas! As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, we are going to look at five places in the Old Testament where prophets tell of Jesus' coming.



Read Isaiah 7:13-14

- ▶ Look at verse 13. What family or house will Jesus come from? In other words, Jesus is the great great great (many greats) grandson of King who?

- ▶ In verse 14, what two things does Isaiah tell us about Jesus?

- ▶ Immanuel means, 'God with us.' Isaiah said these things more than 700 years before Jesus was born! And now, more than 2,000 years later, God is still with us! What is one way you know God is with you?

