

Abandoned by God?

By Amber Espinosa

God's chosen people did not share God's love with others, as God intended. Instead, they lived in luxury and ignored the needs of the poor. The people turned against God and worshipped other gods instead. At this stop on your faith trek, you'll find out what happened to the great nation. Were they abandoned by God?



For

Just for Kids

Season

Spring

Needed

Blank scrap book or sheets of paper, markers or crayons

Activity Plan

1. Find out what the chosen people did, and how God felt about it. Read Hosea 11 (see last page).
2. Read or listen to this commentary about the fall of the kingdom.

Just like Adam and Eve, God's chosen people wondered what it would be like to live apart from God. They chose to have a human king and the rich kept God's blessings for themselves while poor people suffered. So, like God allowed Adam and Eve to experience evil, God let the chosen people find out what it's like to live apart from God. The kingdom was divided and conquered. The people were treated horribly and forced away from the Promised Land. And, yet God had not abandoned them. God loved the people and God promised that sin and evil will not have the last word. God promised to send a Savior.

3. Look through old magazines, or find pictures online. Find some pictures that show how Israel turned from God's purpose. Using the pictures, add a page to your book to tell their story in your own words:
 - Living in luxury and ignoring the needs of the poor and vulnerable
 - Making others into slaves to build a temple
 - Worshipping other gods
 - Tell the story of the fall of the kingdom in your own words.

4. Show your work to a parent, grandparent, friend, or neighbor and talk about these questions together. You could even use Skype to talk to someone far away!
 - Tell about a time when you felt abandoned by God.
 - Do we ever do the same things that Israel did . . . live in luxury and ignore those in poverty? Forget to be grateful to God? Worship other gods?
 - When have you been most hopeless?
 - What do you think God should do next?

5. Pray together using Psalm 69:14-18

Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters.

Do not let the floodwaters engulf me or the depths swallow me up or the pit close its mouth over me.

Answer me, Lord, out of the goodness of your love; in your great mercy turn to me.

Do not hide your face from your servant; answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.

Come near and rescue me; deliver me because of my foes. Amen.

Hosea 11

"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.

It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them.

I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.

"Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent?

A sword will flash in their cities; it will devour their false prophets and put an end to their plans.

My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them.

"How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused.

I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man – the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities.

They will follow the Lord ; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west.

They will come from Egypt, trembling like sparrows, from Assyria, fluttering like doves. I will settle them in their homes," declares the Lord.