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- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Share about a time you didn't feel prepared to do something.
- How do you feel knowing Jesus is always with you?
- What questions do you have about the future? Who knows the future?

## Isaiah, Prophet to Judah

Isaiah 6; 53

### STORY POINT: THE PROPHET ISAIAH TOLD ABOUT THE MESSIAH.

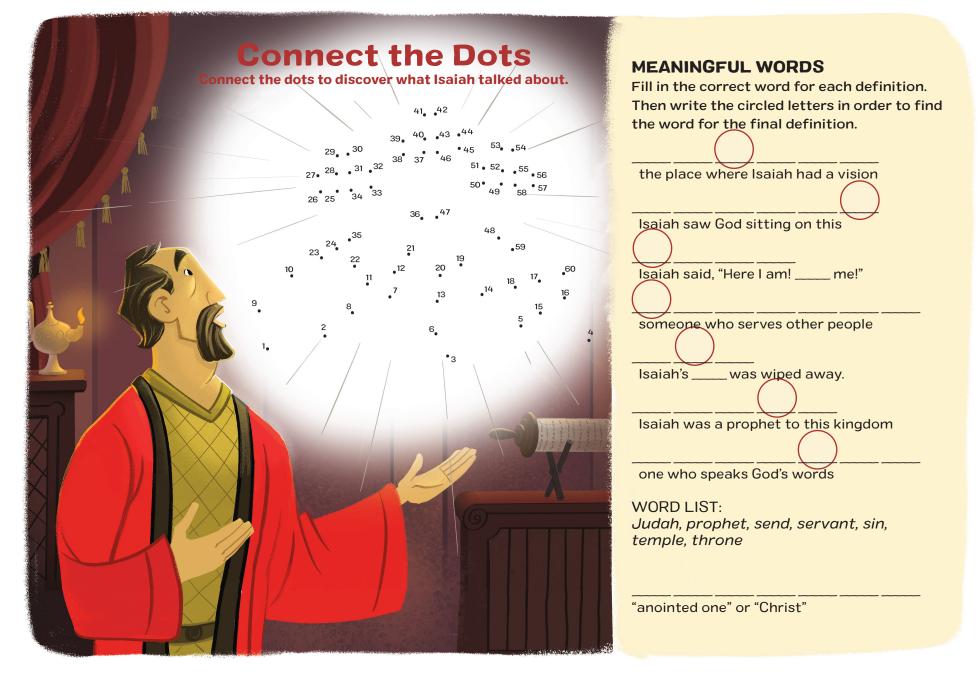
Isaiah was worshiping God in the temple when he had a vision. Isaiah saw God sitting on a throne. Seraphim called out: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD; His glory fills the whole earth."

Isaiah said, "I am sinful. I do not deserve to be in the presence of the King, the great and holy God." Then one of the seraphim flew to Isaiah. He touched Isaiah's mouth with a burning coal from the altar and said. "Your wickedness is removed and your sin is wiped away."

Then Isaiah heard God's voice: "Who should I send? Who will go for Us?" Isaiah said, "Here am I! Send me." Isaiah told the people of Judah about God's plan. God was going to send the people away from Judah, but He would bring some of the people back. God was going to keep His promise to Abraham through them.

Isaiah explained that a Messiah was coming who would be Israel's Savior. The Messiah would be a servant who would suffer and be a sacrifice to rescue people from sin. This was God's plan all along. The Suffering Servant would give up His life as an offering for sin and give life to many people. They would be righteous by His righteousness. And this is how God would prove that what the Messiah does has worked—He wouldn't stay dead. God would bring Him back to life. Then God would reward Him with great honor.

Christ Connection: God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote that this would happen! Jesus is the Servant who suffered so that those who trust in Him would be forgiven.





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#### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Share a favorite story or verse from the Bible.
- Make a list of things you want to pray about. Then pray together as a family.
- Identify someone who has encouraged you to follow Jesus. Thank him or her this week.

## Hezekiah and Josiah

2 Chronicles 29; 34-35

#### STORY POINT: HEZEKIAH AND JOSIAH LED THE PEOPLE BACK TO GOD.

The Southern Kingdom of Judah had many kings. Most of the kings were evil; they did not follow God. Kings like Ahaz set up places to worship idols, and the people forgot about God. When King Ahaz died, his son Hezekiah became king. Hezekiah was not like his father. Hezekiah did what was right. Hezekiah led the people to worship God again, and God blessed him.

After Hezekiah died, his son Manasseh became king. Manasseh was the most evil king of Judah. Then his son Amon became king. He was evil too. Then his son Josiah became king.

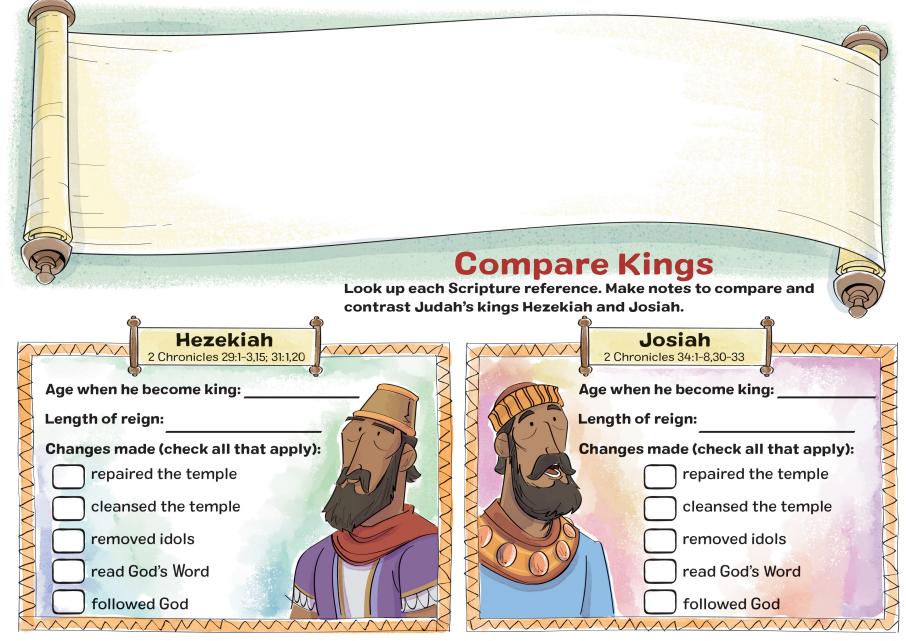
Josiah was just eight years old when he became king. Josiah lived in a way that pleased God. When Josiah was a teenager, he got rid of idols and the places where people worshiped false gods.

When Josiah was a young man, he wanted to repair the Lord's temple. As the temple was being repaired, the high priest found the book of the law. When Josiah heard the law, he tore his clothes! "God is very angry with us!" Josiah said. "Our ancestors did not obey God!"

Josiah read the words of the law to all the people. Then Josiah promised to follow God and obey Him like the law said to do. The people at the temple also agreed to follow God and obey Him. As long as Josiah was king, the people followed God and obeyed Him.

Christ Connection: Hezekiah and Josiah loved God and wanted to follow His commands. They wanted God's people to love God and obey the law too. When Jesus came to earth, He fulfilled the law by obeying it perfectly.

## Kid King If you were king over a country, what laws would you make? List them below.





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### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Do you always obey rules at home? Why not?
- Is your heart hard toward God or soft? Why?
- Why do you think God sent prophets to warn His people?

## Jeremiah, Prophet to Judah

Jeremiah

### STORY POINT: JEREMIAH TOLD GOD'S PEOPLE ABOUT A NEW AND BETTER COVENANT.

When Josiah was the king of Judah, God called a priest named Jeremiah to be a prophet. Jeremiah said, "I don't know how to speak in front of other people. I'm just a boy, only a youth."

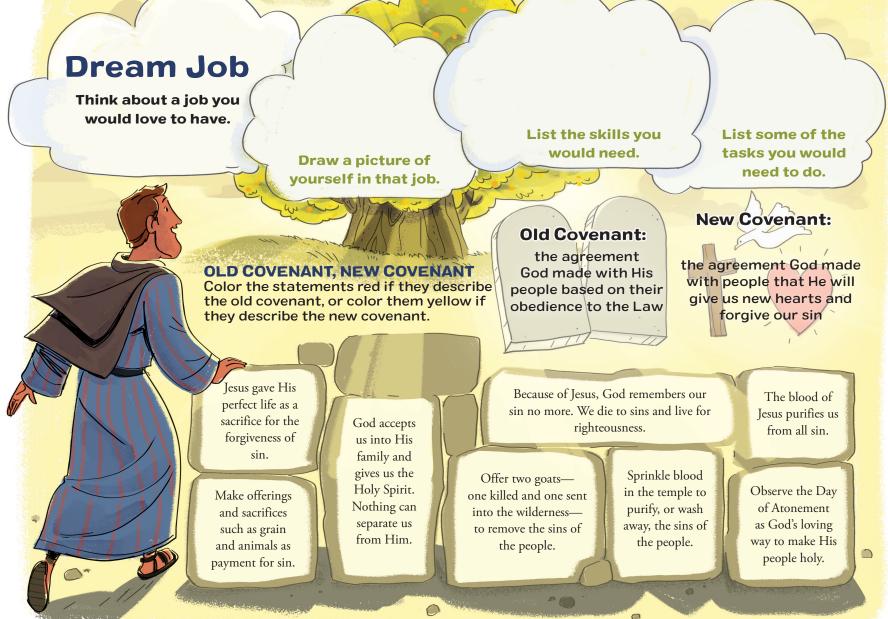
God replied, "You will go where I send you and say what I tell you to say. I am with you. I will protect you."

Jeremiah spoke God's message to the people of Judah. He reminded them that God had made a covenant with them: If they obeyed Him, He would bless them. But the people did not obey. Now God had to punish their sin. God said the people would lose their land, their wealth, and their freedom.

God promised a new and better covenant so the people could be saved from their sins. God would write His law on people's hearts and give His people power to obey His commands.

Jeremiah spoke God's words, and his friend Baruch wrote the words on a scroll. King Jehoiakim cut off each part of the scroll and threw it into the fire. So God told Jeremiah to write another scroll with the same words. Jeremiah told the king, "God is going to punish you, your family, and your leaders for doing wrong things. God warned you that disaster will come to Judah but you did not listen."

Christ Connection: Jeremiah told about a day when God would forgive sin and change people's hearts. Jesus made these words come true. God forgives our sin through His Son, Jesus. He changes us and gives us power through His Spirit to obey His commands.





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### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What questions do you want God to answer?
- Do you agree with Habakkuk's words in Habakkuk 3:17-18? Why or why not?
- Why can we have patience, faith, and joy in a world broken by sin?

## Habakkuk the Prophet

Habakkuk

#### STORY POINT: HABAKKUK LEARNED TO HAVE FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD.

Habakkuk the prophet prayed to God. "Why do You let bad things happen?" Habakkuk asked.

God answered, "Watch! I am doing something amazing, something you wouldn't believe if I told you."

Then God told Habakkuk what was going to happen. God was raising up enemies—the mighty Babylonians. The Babylonians were going to come and make God's people prisoners!

"Why do it this way, Lord?" Habakkuk asked.

God answered, "Be patient. It may seem like evil people are winning now, but they won't win in the end."

Habakkuk praised God for His power. The Babylonians were going to come, and life for the people in Judah would be very hard for a while. But Habakkuk had faith, and he would wait for the day when God would rescue His people from the Babylonians.

Finally Habakkuk said, "Even if the trees and vines do not produce fruit, even if nothing grows in the fields, and even if there are no sheep in the pens and no cattle in the barns, I will be glad because of the Lord. I will rejoice in God who saves."

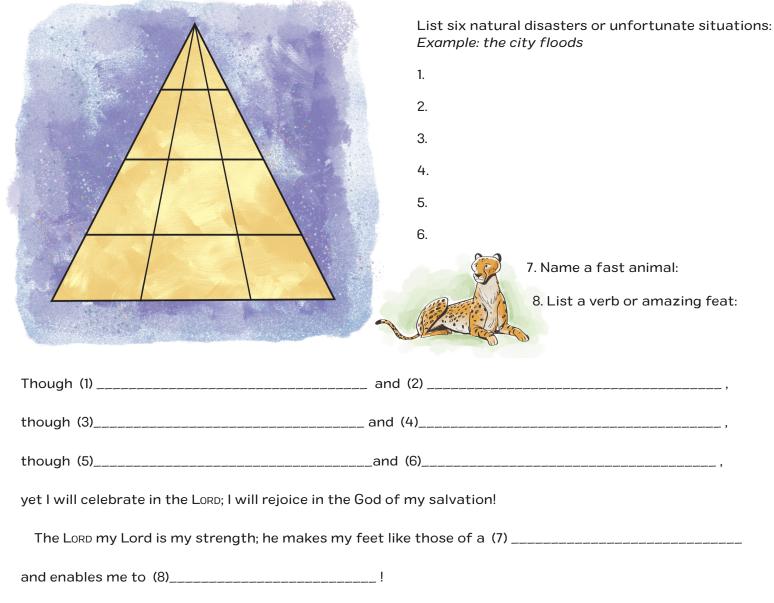
Christ Connection: Habakkuk lived at a time when evil seemed to be everywhere. By faith, he trusted God's promise that God would deliver His people. Injustice, violence, and wickedness surround us today, but we can live by faith and trust that Jesus will return to make all things right.

## **Triangles Everywhere!**

How many triangles are in this picture?

## **No Matter What**

Choose a word for each category or part of speech. Then use those words to fill in the blanks. Read the completed sentences.





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### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Why do you think God gives us laws and commands?
- Why do we decide to break God's laws and commands?
- Why is obedience to God and our parents important?

## **Judah Taken Captive**

2 Chronicles 36

#### STORY POINT: JUDAH IGNORED GOD'S PROPHETS AND WAS CAPTURED.

The last four kings of Judah came from King Josiah's family. His three sons and his grandson each ruled as the king of Judah for a short time. Jehoahaz did what was evil, and the king of Egypt came and made Jehoahaz a prisoner. Jehoahaz's brother Jehoiakim became king. The king of Egypt took Jehoahaz to Egypt. Jehoiakim became king of Judah, and he too did what was evil. The king of Babylon attacked Jehoiakim and took him to Babylon. Jehoiakim's son Jehoiachin became king of Judah.

Jehoiachin did what was evil, and the king of Babylon brought him to Babylon. Jehoiachin's uncle Zedekiah became king of Judah. Zedekiah did what was evil.

God was angry with the people of Judah. They sinned and did not obey God. But God loved His people. He wanted them to turn back to Him. Finally, it was time to punish the people of Judah for their sin. God allowed the king of Babylon and his army to attack Judah.

All of the people who were still alive were taken back to Babylon. Everything the prophet Jeremiah had warned about happened, just like God said it would.

Christ Connection: God was right to punish His people for their sin, but He kept His promise to provide a king through David's family. Ultimately, God punished our sin through His Son, Jesus, and made Him our King forever.

## **Judah Too**

Color in the first letter and then every other letter to discover what happened to Judah.



## THE LAST KINGS

Use the clues to list the last kings of Judah—Jehoahaz, Jehoiachin, Jehoiakim, Josiah, and Zedekiah—in order.



- 1. Josiah was not the last king of Judah.
- 2. The next-to-last king had the longest name.
- 3. Jehoahaz was king before Jehoiakim and Zedekiah.
- 4. Zedekiah was king after Jehoiachin.
- 5. Jehoahaz was king immediately after Josiah.

Jehoahaz	1	2	3	4	5
Jehoiachin	1	2	3	4	5
Jehoiakim	1	2	3	4	5
Josiah	1	2	3	4	5
Zedekiah	1	2	3	4	5

Tip: Use the chart to help determine the order. For clue #1, cross out 5 after Josiah.



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### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What did the dry bones Ezekiel saw in the valley represent?
- How does God make dead people alive? (See Ephesians 2:4-5.)
- How has Jesus changed your life or the life of someone you know?

## **Ezekiel Gave Hope**

Ezekiel 37

### STORY POINT: GOD PLANNED TO BRING HIS PEOPLE HOME AND GIVE THEM NEW LIFE.

Ezekiel the prophet had been taken with God's people to Babylon. Even in captivity, God gave Ezekiel visions so he could tell God's people about the future. One day, God gave Ezekiel a vision. God led Ezekiel through a valley filled with old, dry bones. God asked Ezekiel, "Can these bones come to life?" Ezekiel replied, "Lord God, only You know."

God said, "Speak to these bones for Me. Say, 'This is what God says: I will put breath in you, and you will come to life." Ezekiel spoke to the bones. Suddenly, there was a noise—a rattling sound. The bones were coming together.

God said, "Speak to the breath for Me. Say, 'This is what God says: Breath, come into these bones so that they may live!'" Ezekiel did, and the breath entered the bones. They came to life, and a vast army stood before Ezekiel. God said, "These bones are like My people of Israel. I want you to speak to them for Me." God told Ezekiel to say, "This is what God says: I am going to bring My people back to the land of Israel. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live."

God told Ezekiel to hold two sticks together so they would become one single stick. God said, "My people will live forever in the land I gave to their ancestors." God would make a covenant of peace with His people forever.

Christ Connection: Apart from Jesus, we are like the dry bones Ezekiel saw. God showed Ezekiel His power to make dead people alive. We see God's power at the cross. Jesus died to save sinners. God raised Jesus from the dead, and He gives us eternal life.

