



Date: _____
Series: Discovery Digs
Summer Year 4, Lesson 14

Israel Gets Captured and Destroyed

Take Home Point: *Watch out for what you choose to imitate. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 2 Kings 17:7-23

Key Verse: I Corinthians 11:1, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Israel's capture and destruction because of idol worship. (A review of the last 12 lessons.)
- When we imitate evil or people following false gods, we can be easily "captured" by those evil actions and desires.
- As believers in Christ, we imitate him so that others follow our imitation also.




We will help kids feel:

- Aware of the danger of imitating evil patterns of this world.
- Motivated to imitate Christ-like qualities they see in others.

We will help kids do:

- Build fun and friendship with each other as they play a group game about imitating others.
- Examine the Bible and their own lives for imitating evil and imitating good.
- Spend extra time praying for ways they can be imitators of Christ.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	The children will play a group imitation game to introduce today's Bible event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
Large Group 	4 8 9 12	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Jerry Dude learns about Imitating"—Jerry Dude learns that imitating the wrong thing can cause you to be captured. Review Contest: Two teams compete to review Bible events learned over the summer that led to Israel's capture and destruction. Puppet Conclusion: "Jerry Dude learns about Imitating"—Jerry Dude learns he should imitate Jesus so he won't get captured by evil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry puppet • tub of sand labeled "Sands of Time" • golden calf • cluster of grapes • flash paper—order from www.gospelmagic.com • butane lighter • a fish • two life preservers with yarn or rope tied around them • 4 Hershey's Hugs (or small candy) • 4 Hershey's kisses (or similar small candy)
Small Group Application 	4	Kids review the Bible event and discuss what it means to imitate Christ.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

Play “Imitator Instigator” with the kids.

Today, we are going to play a game called “Imitator Instigator.” Do you know what it means to imitate someone? It means to do just what they do. An instigator is one who starts the process.

Have all kids sit in a circle. Pick one child to be in the middle of the circle but leaves the area while you select another child to be the secret “instigator.” This person will try not to be discovered by the person in the middle but everyone else in the circle will imitate what he/she does. Demonstrate how an instigator would do an action such as rubbing their nose, blinking their eyes, scratching their head, nodding their head, brushing their hair, etc. and have the kids imitate that action. Say:

When the “instigator” starts the action, everyone else continues it. What can make this game fun and challenging is when the people in the circle try not to stare at the “imitator instigator.” Instead, they should keep their eyes moving around the circle so they only glance at him and see what action to imitate. This will make it harder for the person in the middle to guess.

Bring the middle person back to play the game. He/she will get to make two guesses on who the instigator is.

After you play a few rounds of the game, say:

Today, we will talk about imitating. Think of people or things that we might imitate. For example, we might imitate our parents. Because they are interested in certain things we might be, too. What are some other examples? *(Teachers, TV, sports heroes, friends, etc.)*

Which do you think is easier to imitate: Bad examples or good examples?

Today we will see how the people of Israel, for so many years, imitated other ungodly nations and worshiped false gods until God finally let them be captured. We want to learn to **watch out for what you choose to imitate.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Jerry Dude learns about Imitating”—Jerry Dude learns that imitating the wrong thing can cause you to be captured.

Review Contest: Two teams compete to review Bible events learned over the summer that led to Israel’s capture and destruction.

Puppet Conclusion: “Jerry Dude learns about Imitating”—Jerry Dude learns we should imitate Jesus so he won’t get captured by evil.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to 2 Kings 17:7-23 in their Bibles.

What did the Israelites imitate in 2 Kings 17:7-8 that caused the Lord to be angry with them? *(They worshiped other gods and lived by the custom of other nations.)*

Read verses 13 and 14.

How did God try to warn them? *(He sent prophets to warn them.)*

What was Israel’s response to the warnings? *(They refused to listen.)*

Read verses 20 and 23.

What did the Lord do because of their disobedience? *(He rejected them and let people steal from them. He also allowed them to be captured by the Assyrians.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why do you suppose the people of Israel imitated the other nations and worshiped false gods, even though God commanded them not to do this? *(They wanted to be like the other nations because at the time it was the popular thing to do. Maybe they didn't like to be different.)*

Why do you think God allowed them to be captured? *(They would not listen otherwise. He had given them warnings so he had to do something so big that they would turn back to him. He wanted to get their attention. He wanted them to know he was serious.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Why do you suppose we sometimes imitate others even though it may be wrong?

Application Activity:

After discussion, play one more imitation game. Have kids pair up and face their partner. Then explain:

This game is called “The Mirror.” I will demonstrate for you.

Choose a partner to help demonstrate with you.

Everything I do, my partner will do, too – just like in a mirror.

Do some actions like waving, pointing to your nose and moving your head back and forth. Then encourage kids do actions with each other. After a minute of one partner acting, switch and let the other partner do actions. After a few minutes have kids sit down and discuss the following.

Sometimes, like the Israelites, we might want to be like everyone else, too. We like to be popular and we don't like to be different.

However, we do have good examples in our life to imitate. Who are some people in your life that are godly? You respect them and want to be like them.

Allow kids to share examples such as friends, teachers, parents, etc.

In our key verse from I Corinthians 11:1, Paul says, “*Imitate me as I imitate Christ.*” Who does Paul imitate? *(Christ.)* So, whom should we also imitate?

When we imitate Christ, we not only act like Jesus, but we set a good example for others to follow. This can be very hard. You have to **watch out for what you choose to imitate*. But God gives us his power to do this when we ask for it in prayer.

Closing prayer:

Allow kids to spread out and have a time of individual prayer. Have them face away from each other so they won't be distracted. Have them think about godly people in their lives who they respect. Have them concentrate on the actions of these people and what they would look like as they imitate those actions.

Have them pray for God's help to follow the example of godly people and a most of all for the power to follow Christ.

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Large Group Presentation

Don't Get Captured Discovery Digs – Puppet Presentation

The theme for this series is "Discovery Digs." Two presenters play the role of explorers searching through the sands of time for lessons from God's story in the Bible. The characters' or story tellers' are Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round (Dr. G and Dr. T, for short). We suggest that both characters develop their own personality, accent and costume. Both are archeologists and historians. Both know the Bible events enough to tell them well. Since they are presenting to kids, it's helpful to note that "overacting" works well with kids! Exaggerate expressions of surprise, exhortation or puzzlement.

Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round search through the "Sands of Time" and through the pages of the Bible for a special discovery each week. These are Bible truths that students not only discover, but truths that they put into practice. The Bible events are not told as exact readings of the Bible but are paraphrased. Still, it is a good idea to have a Bible in hand so that students can see the source. They might use a clipboard to hold their script, though it looks like archeologist's notes.

Each week a student is brought forward to pull a special key out of the "Sands of Time"—a key that has a clue to the discovery of the day. It is helpful for the characters to use a dry paint brush to brush off the sand from objects pulled from the sand. There is special humor as the archeologists first put their hands in the sand to pull out a rather surprising or intimidating object. This creates just a bit more suspense for the student who then goes searching for the key. Then the characters tell their story in creative fashion using the student volunteer or perhaps the entire audience.

The puppet for this series is Gordy's cousin, Jerry, the surfer dude. He speaks in surfer dude language. He came in to town for summer vacation and likes to come to Kingdom Quest, especially since they play in the sand a bit. He serves as the one to start and close the large group presentation. He interacts with Dr. Goofagain and Dr. Turner, whom he calls Dr. G and Dr. T. The presenter's lines are labeled: Dr._____. (Both characters can be used in all presentations, but in the case of unavailable volunteers or a smaller congregation, one individual would be sufficient, as well. Fill in with whichever character is available this week.)

Props:

- a tub of sand, at least 6 inches deep. Label it "Sands of Time"
- golden calf
- cluster of grapes
- flash paper—order from www.gospelmagic.com
- butane lighter
- a fish
- two life preservers with yarn or rope tied around them
- 4 Hershey's Hugs (or small candy)
- 4 Hershey's kisses (or similar small candy)

Jerry Dude Learns about Imitating

Puppet Presentation

Dr. T: Welcome, kids. This is the last week we will be with you for Discovery Digs. It sure has been a great adventure. I have especially enjoyed our friend from the surfing coast of California *(or Hawaii)*, Jerry Dude. Will you guys please give it up for Jerry Dude?!

Jerry Dude appears.

This sure has been a great summer.

Jerry: This sure has been a great summer.

Dr. T: I'm glad you agree, Jerry.

Jerry: I'm glad you agree, Jerry.

Dr. T: Hey, what's going on?

Jerry: Hey, what's going on?

Dr. T: You're imitating everything I'm saying.

Jerry: You're imitating everything I'm saying...dude.

Dr. T: That's irritating.

Jerry: That's irritating.

Dr. T: Dr. T is the greatest.

Jerry: Dr. T is the...hey, that's not fair, man!

Dr. T: Hey, that's not fair, man.

Jerry: Wait a minute. I'm the one imitating here.

Dr. T: Wait a minute. I'm the one imitating here.

Jerry: Like, dude, you're ripping me off. I'm supposed to be the one imitating you.

Dr. T: I'll stop if you will.

Jerry: Okay, I'll stop if you will.

Dr. T: Jerry, enough! Today, we are talking about imitating.

Jerry: Some of us are doing more than just talking about it, dude.

Dr. T: Okay, we are talking about it and imitating because we are wrapping up the summer with one final lesson about all the Bible events we have discussed in the last couple months.

Jerry: Like what's that, man?

Dr. T: Well, in the Bible, king after king in the land of Israel kept imitating other nations and kept following false gods.

Jerry: Yeah, that was totally dumb how they always did that.

Dr. T: Right, over and over and over...

Jerry: And dumber and dumber and dumber.

Dr. T: And because they were imitating these evil practices, God finally let them be captured by an army and carried away. We have to **watch who we choose to imitate*. We will find out that was the end of them.

Jerry: Who captured them? What happened?

Dr. T: We will find out soon, but first I think we should have a contest to review all the things that have happened to Israel over the summer.

Jerry: That sounds totally bodacious.

Review Contest

Dr. T: Okay, let's bring up a team of four. We need a 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade girl for the girls' team and a 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade boy for the boys' team.

Choose volunteers and position the teams facing each other on the stage and in order of grade.

Each team will get one lifeline. If they do not know the answer, they can ask someone in the audience.

Use a life preserver with line tied to it and throw to an audience member in case they need a lifeline.

I am going to bring out my good friend, Dr. G., to read us our questions.

Dr. G. appears.

Okay, let's look today in the Sands of Time to find out some clues to our questions.

Pull out Object #1- Golden Calf from the Sands of Time for Girls' Team (1st grade girl).

Dr. G: *Clue: This reminds us of Jeroboam. Jeroboam was the first king in the Northern Kingdom and he set up places to worship because he did not want his people going back to the Southern kingdom to worship in the city of Jerusalem. When he set up places to worship, what did he use to attract the people?*

- a) A Golden Calf
- b) Stone Tablets
- c) A Kool-Aid Stand

Answer: a) A Golden Calf

The next question is for the Boys' Team (1st grade boy).

Dr. G: *True or False: The kings after Jeroboam were a good example and showed the people how to worship the true God and live for him. All of the people did this.*

Answer: False. All the following kings worshiped false idols and became more and more wicked in God's sight.

Pull out of the sand: Object #2 – Cluster of Grapes for the Girls' Team (2nd grade girl).

Dr. G: *Ahab was a wicked king who married Jezebel. One time he wanted a vineyard from a guy named Naboth. He wanted Naboth's vineyard so badly that he pouted. His wife Jezebel told him she would take care of it. This is what she did:*

- a) Invited Naboth to dinner and talked him into selling the vineyard.
- b) Falsely accused him and had him killed.
- c) Dug up the vineyard and moved it to their backyard.

Answer: b) Falsely accused him and had him killed.

Next question is for the Boys' Team (2nd grade boy).

Dr. G: *Jezebel loved worshipping Baal and had many priests of Baal. Because wicked King Ahab and Jezebel led the people to worship Baal, the prophet Elijah came and told them God would punish them and cause this to happen in the whole land:*

- a) It would be overrun with rats.
- b) There would be no rain for a long time.
- c) Everyone's ears would turn purple.

Answer: b) There would be no rain for a long time.

Pull out of the sand: Object #3 – Fire with flash paper for the Girls' Team (3rd grade girl).
Light the flash paper.

Caution: This must be practiced beforehand to prevent injury.

Dr. G: *Elijah and the prophets of Baal had a fiery showdown. Both prepared their altars. What was the test to see who the true God was?*

- a) Fire would fall from heaven and burn up the sacrifice.
- b) The ground would swallow the sacrifice.
- c) That God would show up and they would have a barbeque together.

Answer: a) Fire would fall from heaven and burn up the sacrifice.

Ask the Boys' Team (3rd grade boy):

Dr. G: *When Elijah went up in the fiery chariot. He left something behind to show Elisha was the next prophet. What did he drop?*

- a) A Bible
- b) A cloak
- c) A hand grenade

Answer: b) A cloak

Ask the Girls' Team (4th grade girl):

Dr. G: *An army was trying to capture Elisha and Elisha's servant was very worried. Elisha could see that on the hill around the enemy army was another army that his servant could not see. What was this army that only Elisha could see?*

- a) Fiery horses and chariots
- b) King Ahab's army
- c) Hungry Bears

Answer: a) Fiery horses and chariots

Pull out of the sand: Object #4 – A Fish for Boys' Team (4th grade boy).

Dr. G: *True or False: When Jonah finally went to Nineveh and told the people to repent, Jonah was happy about it.*

Answer: False

If the game is a tie: Guys get Hershey's Hugs, Girls get Hershey's kisses OR if a winner is clear: First prize-Hugs, Second Prize-Kisses

Tell kids they can pick their prizes up at the door on the way to small group application time.

Jerry Dude Learns about Imitating

Puppet Conclusion

Jerry: Dude, that's dumb. Why did the people of Israel do all that bad stuff?

Dr. T: **2 Kings 17:15 tells us: *"They went after worthless idols and became as worthless as the idols. They behaved like the nations around them, although the LORD had commanded them not to do that."*** They got so interested in imitating the things that foreign people did at that time, that they were captured by their own evil and God then led them into captivity.

Jerry: Dude, I would never want to imitate that.

Dr. T: Well, Jerry, sometimes we imitate things without even knowing it, like things we see on TV or people that do bad things. Of course, there is someone you do want to imitate.

Jerry: Yeah, man, like Mongo Mongo, the champion surfer.

Dr. T: No, I'm talking about someone more important to imitate. I'm talking about Jesus Christ. Paul says in the Bible, ***"Imitate me as I imitate Christ."*** When we know Jesus gave his life for us and we love him, then we want to follow him. We want to act the way he acts. We want to think the way he thinks. He gives us the power to do that.

Jerry: No way, man! That is totally awesome! How do I get that power?

Dr. T: Well, we pray about it and then make sure we continue to read our Bible and we think everyday about what Jesus would do in every situation.

Jerry: Man, I want to pray right now and ask for that power.

Dr. T: Go right ahead, Jerry.

Jerry: Dear Totally Awesome God, we see the dumb things Israel imitated and see what happened to them. Man, that is scary and we don't want to be like that. Please help us to **watch what we choose to imitate* so we won't get captured by something evil. Help us to imitate Jesus and thank you for giving us the power of your forgiveness and the power to be like him. Amen.