

## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

# God's Glory Leaves The Temple

THE BIG YEAR SEASON 3 WEEK 3

1

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper
- Pencils/crayons/kokis

### LET'S READ THE BIBLE

Today's reading will appear below in "What does it mean?"

2

### LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

Read the description of the beings in Ezekiel's vision in chapter 10:9-14. Challenge each family member to try and draw this description. This is just for fun. Your pictures will probably all come out looking a little bit strange, funny and different from each other, and this is okay. Say, "Today we are going to read about these strange beings in our story, but we will also look at the rest of chapter 10 to try and understand what God is trying to teach us from this passage in the Bible."

3

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

God had been very patient with His people. He sent many prophets to warn the Israelites that they were in danger of being punished for their wickedness. He continuously warned them so that they might repent and turn from their sin and be forgiven. Unfortunately, the Israelites did not listen to God's prophets and God kept His promise to punish them. They were attacked by the Babylonians and taken prisoners to live in Babylon.

God is holy, that means He is perfect and without sin. Sin separates people from God. A picture of how sin separates people from God can be seen in the temple where God's people came to worship Him with sacrifices and offerings. In the temple there was a room called the Holy of holies. It was separated from the other areas by a very thick curtain, or veil. Only the high priest could pass behind the veil and enter the Holy of holies with blood from the animal sacrifice. He would place the blood on the Ark of the Covenant that was in the Holy of holies. This veil is a picture of people not being able to enter God's holy presence, separated from Him because of our sin.

Let's turn to the book of Ezekiel and discover another prophet God used to speak to His people. Ezekiel was born and raised in the land of Judah. While living in Judah, he was being trained to be a priest. Unfortunately, Ezekiel never was able to be a priest serving in God's temple because he was taken with God's people as prisoners to the land of Babylon. Ezekiel lived near the Chebar River. God gave him messages to share with His people who were living in Babylon.

Today, our focus is going to be Ezekiel chapter 10. In this chapter God gives Ezekiel a vision. A vision is like a dream, but the person is not sleeping. God allowed Ezekiel to see amazing things in this vision. Let's read a few verses and learn what Ezekiel saw. Read Ezekiel 10:1-2.

In Ezekiel chapters 8-10 the vision that Ezekiel sees is taking place in Jerusalem. In chapter 10:1-2 Ezekiel describes how God tells a man wearing linen clothes to take burning coals and scatter them over the city. Because of the sin of His people, God was going to allow Jerusalem to be burned. Burning the city would clean the land of the wickedness of God's people.

4

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Read Ezekiel 10:9-14. The cherubim had eyes on their whole body, rims, spokes, wings and wheels. They had four faces – cherub, human, lion and eagle. These are some strange images, and we still don't really know exactly what all of this means. The important thing is that we know that God is on His throne and that He is the one telling Ezekiel what He will do and what Ezekiel needs to do.

Read Ezekiel 10:18-19. Do you know what the “glory of the Lord” means? It is a picture of God's greatness and power. Earlier we heard that God is holy, and sin separates people from Him. Because we are sinful, we cannot comprehend what God looks like. The Bible tells us that no one has seen God and lived. At different times in the Bible, we have seen evidence of the glory of the Lord:

- When God appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai, the glory of God was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain that all of Israel saw (Exodus 13:22)
- When God rescued His people from Egypt and was leading them to the Promised Land, His glory appeared as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:22)
- When Solomon build the temple in Jerusalem and was dedicating the temple to the Lord, the priest who were serving in the temple could not do their jobs because the glory of the Lord filled the house of God (2 Chronicles 5:14)

Sin separates sinful people from a holy God. God made His presence and power visible to His people through His glory. God's glory at the temple was a visible reminder that God was with His people.

In verse 18-19 Ezekiel sees the glory of the leaving the temple in Jerusalem. God's people had rebelled and disobeyed Him so many times. They were no longer worshiping Him according to His instructions but were rather worshiping false gods and bringing wicked things into His Holy Temple. God would not allow His presence to be in a place that had been ruined by the sinfulness of His people. He was leaving this temple and it would be destroyed.

Later in the book of Ezekiel, God tells Ezekiel that even though He punished His people for their sin, one day He would restore a small group (remnant) of people to return to Jerusalem and worship Him and He would once again dwell with them. Ezekiel 37:27 says, “My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Did you know that when Jesus died on the cross for sins, was buried and rose again, He became the perfect sacrifice for sin? Sin separated us from God. When Jesus was crucified on the cross, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51). Jesus was the sinless Son of God who shed His blood on the cross. God no longer needed priests to bring the blood of animals into the holy of holies, because Jesus' blood satisfied God's anger against all sin.

When Jesus returned to heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit who lives in the hearts of each person who repents (turns away from their sin and towards God) and believes that Jesus died for their sins. God's Holy Spirit lives in the heart of believers and will never depart like the vision Ezekiel saw. Because God's Holy Spirit lives in (dwells in) our hearts, He goes with us wherever we go.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- Why does sin separate us from God?
- Why were God's people living in Babylon?
- Where did Ezekiel live?
- Why was God's glory leaving the temple?

**6****LET'S GO A BIT DEEPER**

- What did Jesus come to do? *(He came to earth, lived a perfect life, and sacrificed Himself for our sins so we can be forgiven)*
- Where is God's temple now? *(We - those who believe in Jesus - are God's temple)*
- Will God's presence ever leave this new temple like the vision Ezekiel saw of the presence of God leaving the temple in Jerusalem? *(No)*
- How do we make sure that we keep our "temples" in good order? *(By reading our Bibles, praying, and going to church - meeting with other believers to worship God)*

**7****LET'S PRAY TOGETHER**

Pray together:

- Thank Jesus for the sacrifice He made so that our relationship with God could be restored.
- Thank God that His Holy Spirit lives inside of us and is always with us.
- Ask God to help you keep your temple in good order.