



3rd & 4th

Unit 9 - Prophecy

Story 28.B - Zechariah's Prophecy of Joshua (Zechariah 3)

INTRODUCTIONS - Introduce yourself and consider having students do the same if you have children new to the group. Fill out the top of the Roster and take attendance.

BIBLE TIME - Have kids open their bookmarked Bibles (**Zechariah 3**).

Read Zechariah 3:6-7

What is the first thing that God tells Joshua after he had been forgiven of his sins? (He told him that Joshua must obey God and do what he is commanded.)

If Joshua does obey what will he do? (He will rule in the temple and courtyards and will have a place among those who are standing here.)

Do you remember from last week what Joshua's special job is as the people return from exile? (He will rebuild the temple)

Who is it that is standing there? (Angels - Joshua will have a place among the angels, so he will be with God.)

Main Point: Even though God forgave Joshua's sins, he still asked Joshua to follow him faithfully afterward.

Read Zechariah 3:8-10

Who is God talking to? (Joshua and the other priests with him. *We do not know for sure if there are other priests in the vision, or if Zechariah is just to tell them later. Either way, the message is for all of them.)

What did God say that the priests were signs of? (They were signs of things to come.)

What was the job of the priests at this time? (They were the ones who performed the sacrifices that made it so that the people were forgiven of their sins. The people themselves could not perform the sacrifices on their own; they needed a priest to do it.)

Who is God going to bring to the people of Judah? (He will bring his servant the 'Branch'.)

How long will it take to remove the sin from the land? (One day. *Note the sacrifices of the priests would have to happen again and again. They would never be finished because every new sin would need a new sacrifice. The Branch would remove all sin in one day.)

Who will be invited to sit with the people of God? (Their neighbors)

Main Point: Zechariah's vision points toward the coming Messiah who will make a sacrifice for forgiveness of the people's sins, will remove the sins of the people in one day, and will be extended to the neighbors of Israel.

Read Jeremiah 23:5-6

What family line will the Branch come from? (David's royal line)

What kind of a King will he be? (He will rule wise, and do what is right and fair in the land.)

What will the Branch be called? (The Lord Who Makes Us Right With Himself)

Main Point: The Branch will come from David's family, will be a King who rules wisely, and will be called The Lord Who Makes Us Right With Himself)

***Extended Discussion: Lead a discussion with the kids to help them see that Jesus is the fulfillment of every part of these prophecies.**

Who is the ultimate high priest who sacrificed for the sins of the people? (Jesus)

Who removed the sin from the land in one day? (Jesus)

Who brought the Israelites and people outside of Israel together? (Jesus *He adopted the Gentiles who believe into the family of God.)

Who is the King who came from David's royal line? (Jesus)

Who is the King who rules wisely and always does what is fair and right? (Jesus)

Who is the Lord who makes us right with himself? (Jesus)

Who is the Branch? (Jesus)

Main Point: Jesus is the Branch!

Preview Next Week: This week we learned about two more prophecies of the Messiah. Next week we will start a new unit where we will read about the fulfillment of all of these prophecies.

CRAFT: BRANCH CROSS- Follow the directions to help the kids make a cross out of branches.

PRAYER

Ask the group if they have any prayer requests before leading the kids in prayer.

COMMUNITY & SNACK TIME

Hand out snacks. This is an intentional time to create a sense of community within the group. Sit at the table with the kids and encourage conversation as they eat. If you have extra time, consider playing one of the community building games from the list.

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