Lesson 152: God Promises to Restore Israel After the Exile Jeremiah 29:4-14

Youtube Link for Teachers: https://youtu.be/INHFLHouxPU

Children's Bible Story Video: https://youtu.be/KX6AxaApsp4

Worship Theme: God has good plans for us.

Memory Verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Songs (Youtube links):

- God Is So Good https://youtu.be/7hXZuD-Vd7A
- Our God Is So Good https://youtu.be/JUMy8rZvqjY
- 3. God Never Fails Us https://youtu.be/uVqBqBENPi4

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: "Run for the Candy" Materials Needed: Candies (2 pkgs)



- 1. Have the children stand in a line with a partner.
- 2. Teacher will place 4 pieces of candy on the ground in front of each pair.
- 3. Teacher will say "Head, shoulders, knees, and toes," but will sometimes say "candy." When the teacher says "candy," the pair have to try to grab the candy first.
- 4. The child who was not able to

grab the candy will be out of the game.

- 5. All the winners will stand in a line with a partner again and play the game again.
- 6. Play the game until there is one winner.
- After the game, explain to the children that just as the winners of the game had to stay focused, if we focus on God, then God will show us the good plans that he has for us.



Introduction:

What plans do you have for today when you're done with church? Do you plan to go home or play with friends? What plans do you have for your future? Do you want to be a police? A teacher? A doctor? A farmer? Sometimes, it is hard to make plans for the future because you can't see the future. But God knows your future, and he has good plans for you! Let's learn about the good plans God had for the people of Judah!

Bible Story:

God had given the Jews special rules to follow because he loved them and wanted to keep them from making bad choices. But the Jews broke the rules, and they decided they wanted to do things their own way. They disobeyed God. God warned the Jews many times. He said, "You need to obey me. If you keep disobeying me, I'll have to punish you." God gave the Jews many chances to say they were sorry and to start obeying, but they still chose to disobey God.

Eventually the Jews were punished. Another country captured them and took them to a place called Babylon. They didn't want to leave their homes, but they had to. So they packed their bags and went. They lived in Babylon for more than 70 years! That's a long time to be away from your home! But God had special plans for them. Even though they had disobeyed, God still loved them, just as he loves you.

The Bible tells us that God told the Jews that he had good plans for them and that they would have a future and hope. God said the Jews would get to go home. And God said he would give them back everything they had before! Imagine how the Jews must have felt about being able to go home after living more than 70 years in a place where they were captives. They praised God and thanked God for forgiving them and loving them.

God's love for us is just as perfect and deep. Despite our rebellion and disobedience, we can be assured that God wants to restore us and give us good things, too. God has good plans for us, just as he had good plans for the Jews. We can rejoice in knowing that God's plans will give us hope and a future.

Questions to discuss:

- 1. What did God give the Jews to keep them from making bad choices? (God gave them rules)
- 2. What did the Jews do with the rules? (They did not follow them and disobeyed God)
- 3. What was the punishment? (Babylon came and took many people as captives)
- 4. What good plan did God have for them even when they disobeyed God? (God's plan was to bring them back to Judah after 70 years and make them prosper with hope and a future)
- 5. What good plans do you think God has for you? (Let the children answer)

Game: "The Bible" Materials Needed: Marker



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- 1. Teacher will draw two big boxes on the ground and write "New Testament" and "Old Testament" inside each box.
- 2. Have the children stand in between the two boxes.
- 3. The teacher will select 10 books from the Old Testament and 10 books from the New Testament and tell the children the names of the books and whether they are from the Old or New Testament.
- 4. If the teacher says a name of the book from the Old

Testament, everyone needs to jump to the box that says "Old Testament." If the teacher says a name of the book from the New Testament, everyone needs to jump to the box that says "New Testament."

- 5. If the children jump into the wrong box, they are out of the game.
- 6. Play the game until 3-5 are left in the game.
- 7. After the game, explain to the children that all of God's good plans are written in the Bible. Always remember that God has good plans for you!

Memory Verse:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Craft: "God Has Good Plans for Us" - Coloring Page

Materials Needed: Printed coloring page, crayons

1. Read the memory verse together with the children and have them color it.

Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.) If we live every day with Jesus and grow in our faith, Jesus provides us with direction and correction for our lives. When we respond to his leading, we enjoy the peace and security that only God can give. As Judah lived under Babylonian captivity, it seemed as though there was no hope for them. But God give them hope by saying that they will return to Judah after 70 years. Where are you in your spiritual journey? Are you at home or are you under captivity? Reflect on your walk with God and ask God to provide direction and correction in your life today.

God Has Good Plans for Us