Exile

“Haggai and Zechariah”

Series Objective:

 Students will learn:

* The call of the Prophet Jeremiah
* The prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah

Series Theme 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

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God used prophets like Haggai and Zechariah

 to speak to those in exile and look to the future coming of the Messiah.

Lesson Passage: Haggai 1:1-11, Zechariah 1:1-6, 13:1-2

Materials Needed: Bibles, Copies of Zechariah in the New Testament, Series Theme Verse on

 poster

Lesson Plan:

 \*The northern and southern kingdoms have been destroyed. The Temple was destroyed when Jerusalem fell, and many homes were destroyed, too. Some of the people have been allowed to return to their homeland and Jerusalem is running under the rule of the foreign country that had conquered them, but at least they are home in Jerusalem. The problem is, they came home to Jerusalem and immediately focused on themselves and not God. So God sends two Prophets to speak to the people: Haggai and Zechariah.

 Talking Points: Haggai 1:1-11

* Haggai is the only Prophet to date every one of his prophecies. When is this first prophecy? (Second year of King Darius, 1st day of the 6th month)
* Who is God’s message through Haggai being spoken to? (Zerubbabel the Governor of Judah, and Joshua the High Priest)
* What does God say the people of Judah are saying in verse 2? (It is not time to rebuild the Lord’s house, the temple)
* How does God respond to this statement in verses 3-4? (You have had time to build paneled, or really nice, houses, but you have not rebuilt my house, the Temple. How does that make sense?!)
* God reminds the people of their need for God in verses 5-6, but how? (By showing how much they do, but gain little reward because God is not blessing them because they have forgotten God and God’s house lies in ruin)
* What is God’s solution in verses 7-11? (Build my house, otherwise you will never prosper because you have forgotten me)

Talking Points: Zechariah 1:1-6

* Zechariah dates some of his prophecies, what is the date of his first prophecy? (Second year of King Darius, 8th month)
* Zechariah and Haggai are prophesying at the same time to the same people. His message is a little more instense than Haggai, though it comes two months later. What are the points of Zechariah’s first prophecy? (The Lord was angry with your ancestors. Don’t be like them, return to me and I am here waiting to be your God. I told your ancestors the same thing, make the right choice and come back to the Lord, they did the wrong thing.)
* What was the response of the people to the message through Zechariah? (They repented and acknowledged that their punishment was just)

Talking Points: Zechariah 13:1-2

* Have students group up into two or three groups and read Zechariah 13:1-2.
* Have the groups determine what they think God is saying through Zechariah in these two verses.
* After the groups have time to discuss, lead the conversation and help them to see that God is pointing to the coming of the Messiah, which would be Jesus.
* Notice how God says Jesus will come from the house of David, so they expect a great ruler, but he will also lead them spiritually and cleanse their sin. This is a picture of the sacrifice of Jesus, but also the Kingship that Jesus will have as the ultimate victor over sin.

The Story Retold:

* Give groups a copy of “Zechariah in the New Testament.”
* Look up some of the passages in Zechariah and where they are quoted in the New Testament.
* The goal is to help students see that the Prophets spoke for God and were fulfilled in the coming of Christ as even he quoted many Prophets.

The Story and Me:

* Have the theme verse on a poster board.
* Have students create motions for each word in the verse.
* Say the verse as a group a couple times using the motions.
* Ask students what this verse means to them personally, you might need to get the conversation started by saying what it means to you in your faith life.

**Zechariah in the New Testament**

