

**WFN Lesson**  
**March 25, 2020**  
**Ezekiel 24; 33:21-33**

Read Ezekiel 24:1-14 (a bit difficult for kids to understand)

-Verses 3-5 initially make this parable sound good, like a fellowship meal, until you get to the end (“seethe also its bones in it”). That is a *hot* pot. You don’t burn bones to a crisp when cooking choice meat for an offering.

-We find that the meat still had its blood in it, and was therefore unclean (look at Leviticus 17:3). God states that Jerusalem has shed *human* blood, and the city is polluted.

-Due to the unclean meat, the pot needs purified. God turns up the heat so that everything in the pot will burn up, but it doesn’t work. The pot itself must be reduced to molten metal. The image is clear: Jerusalem (the pot) must be destroyed.

Read Ezekiel 33:21-33

-“Ezekiel has a new message to proclaim: the announcement of Judah’s restoration. Until the fall of Jerusalem, he could not offer the exiles any hope for the future. Once the city fell, he could offer the exiles hope—a hope based on God’s forgiveness alone. After Judah’s final defeat, the exiles could no longer cling to the belief that somehow political alliances, military power, or any human intervention could secure Judah’s future. Only God could offer Judah any hope for the future” (Vawter & Hoppe, 150-151).

-The people have faulty assumptions about lineage being the determining factor in being given the Promised Land.

-People came to hear Ezekiel and found him enjoyable/amusing, but were unwilling to act on the prophet’s words and repent.

Read Mark 14:32-36 (easier for kids to understand)

-Sometimes, in life, things that don’t sound very good, fun, or pleasant come our way. It might be our fault, but it might have nothing to do with us. In Ezekiel, the city of Jerusalem was destroyed as a result of the people’s wicked and vile acts. Another thing that happened is that Ezekiel’s wife died. He hadn’t done anything wrong; it just happened. Have you ever had a bad thing just happen?

-Jesus knew that something unpleasant was coming his way: his own death (and a fairly painful, violent death on a cross). People who don’t have God in their lives freak out or panic when bad things are happening. Jesus acted differently. He, just like Ezekiel, turned to God and prayed. Jesus didn’t want to die in that moment, but he trusted that God had a plan, and that God’s ways were going to lead to something better.

-There’s a saying: “the night is darkest just before the dawn.” What that means is that when things are at their worst, we can have hope that there are good things in store right around the corner. We can place our whole trust and hope in God, knowing that God can give us peace in our anxious times and work bad things into good things. Ezekiel didn’t get his wife back, but he was able to declare to Israel that God still loved them, and that God was going to do something special. Eventually, Jerusalem got rebuilt. In the case of Jesus, he rose from the dead three days later, defeating death and sin. That’s the best example there has ever been of God turning a bad situation into something good!

Memory Verse: Romans 8:28—And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.

Fun Activity

-Fortunately, Unfortunately: Have the family sit in a circle. Clockwise, the group will tell a story, with each person saying one sentence at a time. Here's the catch: each sentence must start with either "fortunately" or "unfortunately," *always* alternating. If a story teeters out, start a new one. Feel free to have the kids do this outside if the weather is decent.

\*Parents: tie this activity into the lesson, talking about how God can take what we view as unfixable circumstances and *drastically* change them in ways beyond what we can imagine (even more so than our crazy fixes to change the outcome of a story).