

LEARNER SHEET: THE EXILE

Isaiah 40:10; Isaiah 50:4-11; Ezekiel 5:5-8; 39:25-29; Psalm 137:1-6



THE BIG IDEA

God followed the people into places of despair and supported them through the worst of times.

BIG FUN IDEA

Visit a church or religious organization in your community that is different from yours and/or has a different form of worship. After the experience, share how it felt to be immersed in a place that was very different from what you're accustomed to.

BIG SERVING IDEA

Go to a local food pantry or meal outreach site. You might help stock shelves or serve a meal. You might encounter people who may be of a different race, income level, or educational background than you are. Afterward, think of how God's faithfulness is being demonstrated in the lives of the people you met.

PRAYER TIME

Remember your partner's prayer needs—record them here.

DISCUSSION TIME

- In Isaiah 40:10, God is described as mighty, even though God's people are held captive in a foreign land. Is it difficult to think of God as powerful or strong when things aren't going well for you? Is your faith tested when bad things happen to you? How can you be a strong influence in the life of someone who may be hurting or in need of help?
- On pages 105-106 in *The Lutheran Handbook* we learn "How to Defend Your Faith against Attack." When God's people were in exile, they struggled with how to continue worshiping God in a new place. Have you ever been put down or made fun of because of your faith? Is it difficult to be a Christian at school or when hanging out with friends or at home? How can you stand strong when you're attacked for your faith?
- On one side of an index card, write about a time when you knew that God was with you. On the other side, write how it made you feel to know that God was with you. Sometimes we don't know where to look, but that doesn't mean God isn't there.

LEARNER TAKE-HOME SHEET:

THE EXILE

Isaiah 40:10; Isaiah 50:4-11; Ezekiel 5:5-8; 39:25-29; Psalm 137:1-6



Take this sheet home and keep it someplace near the dinner table like on the fridge. At least three times next week at dinner, use Prayer Time and one other family activity to make your confirmation learning come alive!

PRAYER TIME

Gather together at a table. Begin with a few moments of silence to allow everyone to focus on the idea of God's faithfulness. Then pray together these words:

God, thank you for always being with us, even when we turn away from you. Please help this family be confident in your faithfulness. Let us never doubt that you are always working in our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen

TALK TIME

In the story of the exile, God's people were taken away from their land and held captive for more than 50 years. Some of God's people believed that God was no longer looking out for them. Others, like Isaiah and Ezekiel, believed that God remained faithful to God's people.

- Share a time when you felt that God had abandoned you. Why did you think God wasn't there? Do you still believe God wasn't there? How can we be sure that God never gives up on us?
- Talk about a time when you were confident that God was present. How did it make you feel? How did you know that God was with you?
- Lots of people in the world feel they have no hope. Many feel that God doesn't exist or that God has given up on them. How can your family give hope to these people? How can you demonstrate that God is faithful to God's people?

WEB TIME

As a family, go to an Internet news site. Scan the headlines and select a story for everyone to read. Look for examples of how God was present (and continues to be present) in the story.

RITUAL TIME

Sit down together and think of some people who are going through difficult times. Write letters to those people, letting them know that you are praying for them. Assure them that God is with them, even though they may think that God has given up on them.



KEY WORDS

Keep a family white board someplace near the dinner table, and write these words on it. Try writing a family definition for each one during the week.

EXILE

BABYLON

FAITHFULNESS

