

Family Devotional

From October 9, 2016

Read: *Jeremiah 52:12-16; 28-30*

Reflect: This does not sound like one of the nice feel good Bible stories we normally hear does it? It sounds like everything is falling apart. The city of Jerusalem had been destroyed. Everyone was broken hearted. Even though it can be difficult to read passages like this, it is a good reminder that when we feel like everything is falling apart we are not alone. Others have felt that way too. The best thing to do when we feel that way is tell God.

He wants to know exactly how we are feeling and what we are thinking. We might even be mad at Him and feel like he has deserted us. Tell Him that! God wants us to be honest in our prayers. The book of Psalms gives us many great examples of this.

Read: *Psalms 22:1-5*

But even in the midst of all this doom, there is still a sliver of light. God has not deserted His people. He is at work making all things right. Did you catch the ray of hope in Jeremiah 52? Reread verse 16. It might seem faint, but it is there!

Last week we read how Jeremiah prophesied there would one day be the buying and selling of land again in Jerusalem, meaning things would one day return to a good place. This Babylonian commander left behind the poorest of the land. He probably thought those people aren't worth taking. What harm will it do to leave them here.

God loves to use the most unlikely of characters to do mighty things for Him. We'll see over the next several books how God uses these people to ready the nation and the land for a great come back, all in God's timing.

This is a great reminder to us that when everything looks dim, we should asking God to show us His rays of hope. He might even use you to do things you never thought possible.

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on John 16: 33b this week.

*Jesus says: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart!
I have overcome the world."*

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for showing me how to trust you even in crazy times. Help me remember you are in control and making everything right in your timing. Please give us eyes to see your rays of hope no matter how gloomy circumstances seem..... Amen!"