

one's own way, instead of looking for God's way, and following that. It was this that caused the downfall of Judah. Tell the story of a poor boy who was found sick, homeless, and friendless.

A good man took him to his beautiful home, fed him, clothed him, helped him back to health, gave him the best teachers, and tried in every way to help him to become a good man. But the boy did not want to do right. He wanted his own way. Where his kind friend wanted him to be true, he chose to be false. Where he wanted his boy to walk in virtue's way, the boy chose the ways of vice. The end was the downfall of the foolish boy. His friend wanted to make him his heir, but the boy loved his own evil way so much better than the good ways of his kind friend that he left the home to live a life of sin. Soon he was found in a prison, and in a few years he died, the victim of his own sin.

The kingdom of Judah had a "downfall," too. It came from choosing the ways of sin. God's ways are good. How long and patiently the Lord tried to lead Judah in right ways! But they wanted their own way, and that way led to downfall and to death!

[Uncover the picture of the city. Make a large J above it. Let children tell what they can about Jerusalem. Tell that Zedekiah was King of Judah now.] He was a son of good King Josiah. But he was not a good king. He loved his own way, which was not God's way. Now trouble had come to him. [Make something to indicate forts all around the city.]

The heathen King of Babylon had come to take Jerusalem. He built these forts all around the city. There were soldiers in the forts. They watched the gates of the city, and would not let any one come out or go in. The people were shut up for a year and a half. All the food was eaten up, and many people died of hunger.

Then Zedekiah and his soldiers tried to get away in the night. They thought they could get out through the king's garden, and no one would see or hear them. But the Chaldean soldiers heard them, and followed. They caught them, and took King Zedekiah to the King of Babylon. [Print his name—"Nebuchadnezzar"—on the board.]

They bound Zedekiah with chains. [Uncover picture.] Then they killed his two sons, and after that they put out the king's eyes! All this trouble came because he would have his own way, and not God's way!

Then they took him and many of the people of Jerusalem to Babylon. The king was put into a prison [uncover picture] and the others were made slaves.

What do you think was done with the holy city? It was burned with fire! [Uncover pict-

ure.] The beautiful temple, the great palaces, the homes—all were burned, because the king and his people chose the ways of sin!

This is a story of what sin did a great while ago. Does it do such bad things now? Yes. Sin is always the same. It never makes happy. It always ends in trouble. This is just as true for little children as for grown people.

There is Tommy Bell. You do not know him. May be some boy here is like him. Tommy loves his own way, and will have it. His way is to strike, to pinch, to speak hateful words, to disobey, to run away from school, to do all kinds of naughty things. Sin makes Tommy do these



things. Sin is putting chains on Tommy's hands. Sin is putting out Tommy's eyes, so that he will not be able to see what is true and good!

What can children do to escape from sin? Come to Jesus! He is stronger than sin and Satan; and come to him right away, for every day sin's chains are growing stronger!

Blackboard.

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After the lesson review turn to the blackboard, and point to the design. We see at the top the word "Lost!" That is a sad word. It carries with it sorrow and grief and sometimes hopelessness. Speak of lost health, lost fortune, lost ships at sea, lost battles, lost honor and friends. To-day we study about a lost kingdom; lost through disobedience and sin. This is symbolized by the broken crown, and we see running through it a sharp sword. The sword of the hosts of Babylon was the instrument permitted by God to be used to overthrow the kingdom of Judah, but this sword symbolizes the awful wrath of God against sin. He abhors it in a nation, he abhors it in my heart and