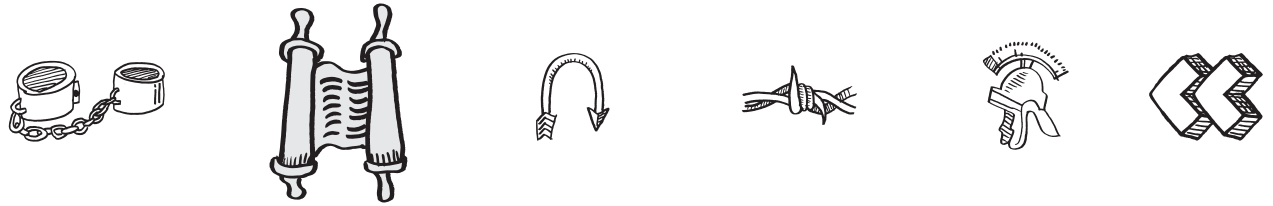


# DIASPORA



When the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem, God's people were taken from their land and scattered throughout a strange place. The process of scattering is called diaspora. The written Torah reminded them of God's strong faithfulness and brought hope for the future.

Before the exile, God's word was spoken and heard. During the diaspora, God's word was written on scrolls and called **Torah**, which means "law." The Torah includes the first five books in the Jewish and Christian Bibles.

## 2 Kings 25:1-12

God's people had been removed from their homeland and spread throughout a foreign country. The people believed they would only be God's people if they lived in the Promised Land. Over time the people came to trust that God's word would sustain them during these dark days.

Check out these other Bible passages that connect with the theme of Diaspora!

- > **Lamentations 3:19-26** When God's people were homeless and bitter, where was God?
- > **Psalms 119:105-112** What stories and songs held God's people together?
- > **Jeremiah 36:1-3** Why was a scroll part of Jeremiah's work as a prophet?

## Talk about it!

Use these questions to connect with each other.

- > When have you felt like God was punishing you for bad behavior?
- > Where do you write important sayings, words, or stories?
- > When have you found hope from something you read in the Bible?

## What are preteens thinking?

Your child may be an expert lamenter. This lesson can help them understand that they can take control of their feelings and actions and make their day and others' days better.

## Try this!

Using a large sheet of paper, create a family scroll. Write Bible verses, quotations, and pictures that bring your family hope. Roll it up and keep it in a safe place. Look at it when you're feeling down.

## Prayer

God, we thank you for your written Word. Remind us that there is always hope through you. Amen.