

GOD DISCIPLINES HIS CHILDREN AND FORGIVES THEM

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Jeremiah 29:4-14

I WONDER:

- I wonder why God kept sending his prophets to speak the truth to his people?
- I wonder why God's people kept disobeying God?
- I wonder if God's people wanted to obey God?

DIGGING DEEPER:

- Why does God care about whether we sin or not?
- How did Jesus take care of our sin problem?
- Is there anything that you find yourself doing again and again even though you know it's wrong?
- How does God help us when we are tempted to sin? (See John 16:7 and 1 Cor. 10:13)
- Are there people in your life who are telling you what God wants for you? Is it easy or hard to listen to them?

ACTIVITY:

Divide the group into 2 teams and have them face each other across the table. Each team will start with one representative who will receive 3 tokens. The player will roll two dice 20 times in a row, but every time they roll 6 or lower, they lose a token. If they lose 3 tokens, they pass the die to the next player on the team who starts over from the beginning with 3 tokens. Ask the players to keep track of how many times they rolled the dice before they lost all their tokens.

The game continues until everyone has gone or until someone successfully rolls the dice 20 times. (or until too much time has passed) It is **extremely** unlikely that someone will roll the dice 20 times.. The point of this activity is to illustrate that although it's possible for us to avoid sinning sometimes, our sinful nature makes it impossible for us to be entirely perfect. We might be "less sinful" than someone else, but that doesn't matter, because Heaven's standard is perfection. That's why we all need God's forgiveness available through Jesus Christ.

NOTE: If by some amazing fluke, a child actually finishes the game, you can talk about how only one person (Jesus) ever lived a perfect life.