

LEARNER SHEET: TEN THINGS THAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS



PRAYER TIME

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



THE BIG IDEA

Life and faith flourished in the tough time between the Testaments.

DISCUSSION TIME

- Make a time line of the events that happened between the Old and New Testaments. Use pages 163-164 in *The Lutheran Handbook* to find the missing dates and plot the following events on your time line.

The Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem in _____ B.C. and took the people into exile.

The Persian Empire ruled from about 532-330 B.C.

The Greek Alexander the Great conquered the region around _____ B.C.

Around _____ B.C. the Seleucid emperor, a successor to Alexander the Great, outlawed circumcision and the Sabbath, and defiled the temple.

A family of Jews called the Maccabees led a revolt against foreign domination from 167-164 B.C., and the Jewish nation was independent again until 63 B.C.

In _____ B.C. the Roman Empire conquered Palestine, having already conquered almost everyone else in the region.

- Go back to your time line and write the language that each of the conquering empires brought to the region.
- How would you feel if your homeland was conquered and an entirely new language and culture were forced upon you? Think of examples of this happening in more recent history.



BIG FUN IDEA

Create a ritual that is a source of identity for your group (a handshake or other gesture, for example). Use your ritual as part of your group time for the next month.



BIG SERVING IDEA

People who are homeless feel a loss of identity because they aren't rooted to a place to call home. Find out what your group can do to help people in a homeless shelter in your area (perhaps provide toiletries, blankets, meal gift cards, and so on).

LEARNER TAKE-HOME SHEET: TEN THINGS THAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS



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.

JEWISH

DIASPORA

TEMPLE

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

Dear God, sometimes we feel like we don't know what you're doing in the world. Help us during times we struggle to understand where you are. Amen

TALK TIME

- Has there been a time in the life of your family that you've struggled to understand where God is present? Talk about how it felt during that time, and then to look back on it later.
- What would it be like to lose the things that bring you identity in your faith life? (Perhaps your church building is destroyed, or you are forbidden from reading the Bible or worshipping.) How difficult would it be to keep your faith strong?
- Has anyone in your family done much reading on the current struggle in Israel and Palestine? How can he or she help other family members understand better what is happening in the region today? Perhaps one or more family members want to commit to doing more research on the current situation. Is today's conflict surprising, given the history of the region?



WEB TIME

Do a search for "Maccabean Revolt." Do the sites all agree on the dates this took place? What more can you learn about this period in the history of the Jewish people? Do all the sites bring the same perspective?

RITUAL TIME

Place some of the symbols or objects that give you identity in your faith in the center of your table. This might include your Bibles, your church directory (signifying the community you belong to), a brochure for a ministry you volunteer with, or a church worship bulletin. Say a prayer giving thanks to God for all that helps keep you rooted in your faith.