**Chapter 17: the kingdom’s fall**

**Icebreaker Question**: What is the most memorable destruction or disaster that you have seen firsthand?

1. List the evil things that King Manasseh did to arouse the anger of the LORD (p. 231-232). How did Judah compare to the pagan nations that the LORD had driven out of the Promised Land? (See the first full paragraph on p. 86 for insight.)

2. What are the “starry hosts” (p.231)? What are the implications for astrology, horoscopes, and other “harmless” and “fun” fortune tellers?

3. Who is most culpable for the sins of Judah—the people or their king? How can believers today avoid being led astray?

4. What happened to King Manasseh? What do you think led him to change his ways?

5. Review Isaiah’s prophecy made over one hundred years before Nebuchadnezzar’s attacks (p. 225-226). Compare Isaiah’s predictions with the events during the reigns of Kings Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah.

6. During the exile, God gave Ezekiel the mission of sharing his word with the Jews living in a foreign land. How does the Christian mission today resemble this situation?

7. Jeremiah was still in Jerusalem after the first two sieges. According to his prophecy (p. 238-240), what single condition must be met for God to forgive the city?

8. Nebuchadnezzar’s final siege lasted eighteen months ending in 586 BC. How did King Zedekiah regard the LORD? What was God’s final word to him?

9. After the fall of Jerusalem, Jeremiah grieved for his beloved city (p. 243-245). What did Jeremiah believe about the Upper Story of God? What specifically can we apply to our own lives from Jeremiah’s lament and praise?

10. What did God promise He would do for Israel in spite of their great sin, their Babylonian exile, and their hearts of stone (p. 245-246)? What does this teach you about God’s heart for His chosen nation?

In the time remaining ask your group members to share any of their personal reflection insights from their journal entries.