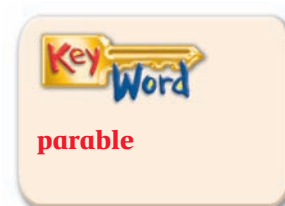


Overview

In Chapter 17 the students learned the ways God’s people grew in wisdom during the exile and upon their return to the promised land. In this chapter the students will learn how God’s people struggled to maintain political and religious independence.

| Doctrinal Content | For Adult Reading and Reflection <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> |
|--|---|
| The students will learn: | Paragraph |
| • The Jews lived and worshiped together. | 715 |
| • God continued to work through his people. | |
| • The Maccabees defended the Jewish faith. | 584 |
| • Judea lost its independence to Roman rule. | 423 |



Catechist Background

How do you react when your plans are upset?

An old saying tells us that if we want to give God a good chuckle, tell him our plans. Our plans can be upset by misfortune or changed by the grace of our surprising God.

In 539 B.C. the Persians defeated the Babylonians. Cyrus, the Persian king, allowed the Jews to return home in three stages. They planned to renew their nation, rebuild their Temple, rededicate themselves to the practice of God’s law, and control their own destiny. But like so many plans, these were only partially realized. The Temple was finished in 515 B.C. In 458 B.C. Ezra guided more Jews out of Babylon and initiated an age of spiritual renewal. But forces beyond their borders shattered the people’s plans for independence.

Alexander the Great conquered the nation and imposed Greek culture. A Greek ruler, Antiochus IV Epiphanes (173–163 B.C.) desecrated the Temple and forbade the practice of the Law. A revolt by the Maccabees won the Jews a period of independence

Go to www.webelieveweb.com, Catechist/Teacher, We Believe Correlations for this chapter’s correlation to:

- Six Tasks of Catechesis
- Catholic Social Teaching.

until the Romans took over around the year 63 B.C.

The Book of Daniel was composed during this tumultuous period of conquest and defeat. The book shows Daniel’s people pointed toward God, who alone is in control and whose plan is the only sure source of comfort and strength. And Daniel points us toward God, the unchanging One, and asks us to submit our minds, wills, and plans to God’s wisdom and power. “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, / for wisdom and power are his. / He causes the changes of the times and seasons, / makes kings and unmakes them. / He gives wisdom to the wise / and knowledge to those who understand. / He reveals deep and hidden things / and knows what is in the darkness, / for the light dwells with him.” (Daniel 2:20–22)

What are you doing to place yourself and your plans in God’s hands?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Steps

Presentation

Materials

1 WE GATHER

page 207
 **Prayer**

 **Focus on Life**


- Read from the Book of Proverbs.
- Pray for wisdom.

 Discuss messages in the media.


For the prayer space: Bible opened to Proverbs 10:9

2 WE BELIEVE

pages 208–209
The Jews lived and worshipped together.


- Present the books of Isaiah, Malachi, Obadiah, Joel, Daniel, and Esther.
-  Reflect on God working through his people.

pages 210–211
God continued to work through his people.

- Read the stories of Tobit, Judith, and Jonah.
- Present Reproducible Master 18.
-  Make a mural.
- Discuss Jesus' parables in *As Catholics*.

- copies of Reproducible Master 18
- Bible

pages 212–213
The Maccabees defended the Jewish faith.


- Read about the Maccabees.
-  Discuss and illustrate the ways God provides for his people.

pages 214–215
Judea lost its independence to Roman rule.

- Read about Judah's loss of independence.

3 WE RESPOND

page 215

-  Reflect on leaders and respect for religious beliefs.

pages 216–217
Project Disciple

- Complete the **Project Disciple** activities.
- Explain the *Take Home* activity.
- Discuss/send home **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master for this chapter.

- copies of **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master, Chapter 18 (back of book)

page 218
Chapter 18 Test

- Complete **Chapter 18 Test**.
- Work on *Alternative Assessment* activity.

- optional: copies of Scripture reproducible master, *What's the Word?*, Chapter 18 (back of book)