

## Overview

In Chapter 16 the students learned that the prophets helped the people of Judah in their struggle to be loyal to God. In this chapter the students will learn how the people of God grew in wisdom during their exile in Babylon and their return to Judah.

### Doctrinal Content

For Adult Reading and Reflection  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The students will learn:

- Prophets continued to share God’s message. . . . . 711
- God’s people in exile were given hope. . . . . 713
- God’s people searched for wisdom. . . . . 1831
- The long return to Judah happened in three stages.

Paragraph



**lamentation**  
**superstition**  
**hope**  
**proverb**  
**Torah**

## Catechist Background

**H**ow would you describe a challenge you faced and sought to overcome?

There are times in our lives when everything falls apart. The death of a loved one, a bout with serious illness, financial reversals, family problems, or a barrage of debilitating challenges dismantles what we thought was a secure and well-ordered existence. At such times we can feel adrift, cut off from others, as though we were inhabitants in an unfamiliar realm. We look at the happiness of the recent past and realize we can never return to it. This was the situation of the people of Judah who were exiled in Babylon.

The people mourned their homeland, the Temple, and the family members and friends who were murdered or missing. This suffering is expressed in the Book of Lamentations: “Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us, / look, and see our disgrace: / Our inherited lands have been turned over to strangers, / our homes to foreigners. / We have become orphans, fatherless; / widowed are our mothers. . . . The joy of our hearts has ceased, / our dance has turned into mourning” (Lamentations 5:1–3, 15).

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

- Six Tasks of Catechesis
- Catholic Social Teaching.

The prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah ministered to people of Judah in Babylon. These prophets saw the peoples’ fear and confusion, and through them the Lord spoke words of hope and comfort. “I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, . . . You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.” (Ezekiel 36: 26, 28) “I will pour out my spirit upon your offspring, / and my blessing upon your descendants.” (Isaiah 44:3)

The exiled people eventually returned to their homeland. They rebuilt the Temple and their lives. The Babylonian experience had changed them, made them wiser, and brought them closer to God. The same is often true for us when God guides us through our season of loss and despair to the promise of a hope-filled future.

**H**ow does God help you when you are feeling adrift or like a stranger in your own world?

# Lesson Planning Guide

## Lesson Steps

## Presentation


## Materials

### 1 WE GATHER

page 195  
 **Prayer**

 **Focus on Life**


- Pray for people who are away from home.

 Discuss homesickness.


For the prayer space: Bible opened to the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3–12; photos or items representing people who are in exile

### 2 WE BELIEVE


pages 196–197  
*Prophets continued to share God's message.*

- Read about the Books of Lamentations and Ezekiel.
-  Do the art and design activity.

pages 198–199  
*God's people in exile were given hope.*

- Read about the Babylonian exile and the prophet Isaiah.
-  Do the role-playing activity.
- Discuss *As Catholics*.

pages 200–201  
*God's people searched for wisdom.*

- Read about Wisdom Literature.
-  Begin a book of proverbs.

- Bibles (option)
- copies of Reproducible Master 17


pages 202–203  
*The long return to Judah happened in three stages.*

- Read about the people's return to Judah.
- Complete Reproducible Master 17.

- Bible

### 3 WE RESPOND

page 203

 Share ways to do the things Jesus taught us.

pages 204–205  
**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 17 (back of book)

page 206  
**Chapter 17 Test**

- Complete **Chapter 17 Test**.
- Work on *Alternative Assessment* activity.

- optional: copies of Scripture reproducible master, *What's the Word?*, Chapter 17 (back of book)