

Ezekiel 4 and 5

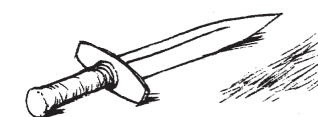
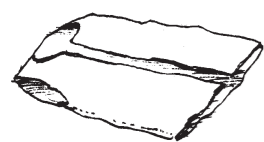
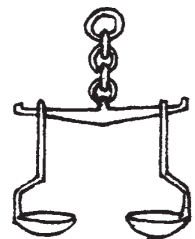
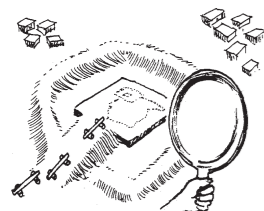
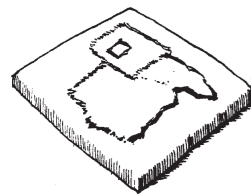
"I will deal with them according to their conduct, and by their own standards I will judge them. Then they will know that I am the LORD."
 Ezekiel 5:27

Readings this week:

- S Ezekiel 4
- M Ezekiel 5
- T Ezekiel 6
- W Ezekiel 12: 1-16
- Th Ezekiel 14: 12-23
- F Ezekiel 18: 19-32
- S 1 Corinthians 9: 19-23

Ezekiel was taken captive to Babylon from Judah before Jerusalem was destroyed. God had a message to give to the captive Jews about what was going to happen to Jerusalem. Read Ezekiel 4 and 5 to find out the very strange things Ezekiel had to do to illustrate to the people what would happen.

Use the space beside each illustration to describe what Ezekiel did and what it meant. You'll need to spend some time talking about the meanings with your group.



Act out what Ezekiel had to do with the rest of your class.

Did you feel a bit silly doing some of the things? How do you think Ezekiel felt?

What do you think was the reaction from the people?

Why do you think God asked Ezekiel to use such strange methods to get His message across?

Why do you think it was so important that the Jews knew in advance what was going to happen to Jerusalem?

Today, we want people to notice God's message through preaching. Can you think of some ways of preaching which could be as effective as Ezekiel's message was? Talk with your teacher about the possibility of trying some of them out.

Digging Deeper

Think of the ways God has spoken. Who was he speaking to and what about? Who was he speaking through?

- Genesis 1:3
- Genesis 3:8-9
- Genesis 17:1, 18:1-2 (and 19:1)
- 2 Peter 1:21
- Acts 10:42
- Hebrews 1:1-2
- John 3:34-35

Are you prepared to do whatever God asks you to, even when others think you are stupid? Which is more important, to follow God or to improve your credibility with your friends? How can you deal with any conflict you might face?

Pray that you will be ready to serve God in ways seen by others and in ways not seen.