



UNIT 15 | SESSION 3 | NOVEMBER 2-3, 2019

2nd-3rd Lesson

Jeremiah, Prophet to Judah

Bible Passage: Jeremiah

Story Point: Jeremiah told God's people about a new and better promise.

Key Passage: "If my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Big Picture Question: How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Jeremiah lived in Judah, just north of Jerusalem. At the time God called Jeremiah into ministry, Josiah was king of Judah. Each time God calls someone, He equips that person to do His work. Like Moses, Jeremiah was hesitant: "Oh no, Lord GOD! Look, I don't know how to speak since I am only a youth" (Jer. 1:6). God assured Jeremiah: "I will be with you" (Jer. 1:8).

God called Jeremiah to be a prophet. The people of Judah had broken the covenant God made with them at Mount Sinai. God said through Moses, "If you will carefully listen to me and keep my covenant, you will be my own possession out of all the peoples, ... and you will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation" (vv. 5-6). God's people responded, "We will do all that the LORD has spoken" (v. 8). But Judah was deep in idol worship and other sins. God's judgment was coming for Judah, and Jeremiah's job was to warn them.

Along with the warnings, Jeremiah brought a message of hope. Jeremiah told God's people about a new and better covenant. He told about a day when God would forgive sin and write His law on the hearts of His people. The new covenant promised that God would forgive sin. God forgives sin through His Son, Jesus. Jesus did not come to get rid of the law. (See Matt. 5:17.) Through His sinless

life, Jesus fulfilled the demands of the old covenant. He changes our hearts and gives us power through His Spirit to obey His commands.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share something they think they'll be able to do once they're older. Could they do it while they are young? Why or why not?

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

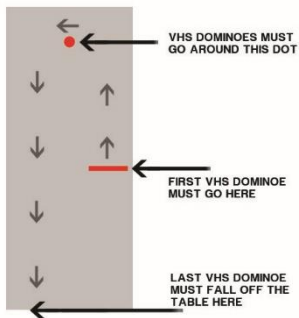
LARGE GROUP GAME

(SFX: GAME INTRO MUSIC, SFX: RETRO MUSIC)

VHS DOMINOES

(30 VHS tapes, 15 tapes per team)

SAY • It's game time again! I need 6 volunteers - 2 boys + 1 Small Group Leader and 2 girls + 1 Small Group Leader. *Hold up a VHS tape* Who knows what this is? Yes, it's called a VHS Tape and believe it or not, this is how we used to watch movies. And we had to *rewind* the movie when we were done watching it! Ask your parents what the word rewind means. OK, here's how you play!



All VHS tapes start stacked in the middle of the table. Once the game starts, teams' race to set up the tapes like dominoes in a "U" shape (or to be more precise, a "J" shape). Once the tapes are all set, one of the players needs to push over the first VHS tape that's on the starting line in hopes that all the tapes fall over in sequence including the very last tape which needs to fall off the edge of the table. If every tape doesn't fall, you need to hurry and

set them back up to try again. The first team to get all of their tapes to fall (including the last tape to fall off the edge) wins!

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: THIS LITTLE LIGHT, VIDEO: ONCE AND FOR ALL)

SAY • Let's worship God!

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(CG: THEME BACKGROUND)

(mailbox, mail, Bible)

Leader enters, walks over to the mailbox and pulls out the mail.

SAY • Hey everyone! My name is [*your name*]. For the next few weeks, we're going to be talking about the mail. You know, that little truck that pulls up to your house, puts random stuff in your mailbox and then drives away? Well, my mail carrier is named Charlie and he has been delivering mail and packages for more than 25 years! He has some crazy stories - like one time when a bunch of kids chased him down because they thought he was the ice cream truck. He's told me all the ways mail delivery has changed over the last 25 years. People used to write letters and mail them to communicate with one another! Just like people used to watch movies on VHS tapes! Now, people prefer quicker methods like phone calls or texts to communicate.

Pull out a Bible. You know, sometimes change is hard but sometimes news of new and better things can give us hope for the future. That leads us into this week's Bible story.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

(CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

SAY • We have been learning about God's plan. Who remembers our big picture question and answer? [*Allow responses.*] Great job! *How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.* That means that God knew we would choose to disobey Him, and yet He still chose to create us, give us the freedom to make choices, and send Jesus to rescue us when we chose to disobey. What a good and loving God He is!

GIANT TIMELINE

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY • Speaking of people choosing to disobey God, God's people were again living in ways that did not honor God. They had rejected God and were living as two separate kingdoms, Israel in the north and Judah to the south. Despite Judah's sin, God sent prophets to call them back to God. The prophet Isaiah told about the Messiah. And not all the kings were bad. Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God. But the occasional good kings were not enough to save God's people. The people could not obey God perfectly, and God's promise with them required perfect obedience. That's where our story picks up.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: JEREMIAH, PROPHET TO JUDAH, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

(Bible)

Show the Bible story video “Jeremiah, Prophet to Judah”.

SAY • God called Jeremiah to be a prophet. Being a prophet meant listening to what God said and telling the people God’s message. Was Jeremiah excited about being a prophet? (No.) Why not? [Allow kids to respond.] Jeremiah was young; what if other people didn’t listen to him? But God promised to be with Jeremiah and to give him the words to say. When God calls someone to do something, God gives that person everything he or she needs to do God’s work.

Jeremiah told God’s people about a new and better covenant. The new covenant says that God will write His law on people’s hearts. Without the Holy Spirit, we do not want to obey God’s law [see *Rom. 8:7*], so God said He would give us His Spirit so our hearts will want to obey His law. The Spirit gives us power to obey God’s commands, and God will forgive our sins forever.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

SAY • Jeremiah told about a day when God would forgive sin and change people’s hearts. Jesus made these words come true. God forgives our sin through His Son, Jesus. He changes us and gives us power through His Spirit to obey His commands.

Jesus lived a perfect life with no sin, obeying all of God’s rules perfectly for us. Then Jesus died on the cross for our sin and rose again on the third day to defeat death. After Jesus went back to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit, who lives in believers to help us love and obey God.

KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible)

Show the key passage slide. Open Bible and lead the kids to read together 2 Chronicles 7:14.

SAY • God is faithful. He promised to help His people and heal their land when they turned from their sin. When we believe in Jesus, God forgives us and begins to heal the damage sin causes in our lives. One day, Jesus will return and fix everything that sin has broken.

PRAY AND DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

Session Title: Jeremiah, Prophet to Judah

Bible Passage: Jeremiah

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KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

(Key passage poster – 1 per group, paper – per kid, markers, crayons – per group)

Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 2 Chronicles 7:14. Provide paper and markers or crayons. Assign each kid a key word from the key passage and instruct him to draw a picture to represent the word. Then lead kids to say the key passage, holding up the pictures for the key words. Challenge them to say the key passage from memory, referring to the pictures as prompts. (Sample key words: *people, bear/called, pray, face, turn, hear, heaven, heal, land*)

SAY • Great job! Keep working to memorize this verse on your own. This key passage reminds us of God's heart for His people. He will punish sin, but He wants people to turn to Him and receive forgiveness.

PAPER HEARTS

(“Dry Erase Heart” printable or red paper, contact paper, magnetic strip, scissors, fine tip dark marker or pen – 1 per kid)

Provide a heart for each kid from the “Dry Erase Hearts” printable or instruct kids to cut heart shapes from red paper. Lead kids to write *2 Chronicles 7:14* on their hearts as a reminder to memorize the key passage. Demonstrate how to laminate the hearts between two pieces of clear contact plastic. Trim off excess plastic. Give each kid an adhesive magnetic strip to affix to the back of the heart. Suggest kids put their hearts on their refrigerators at home.

Option: Review the gospel with kids from the sheet in your bin. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another volunteer if they have questions.

SAY • Do you remember what God was going to change about people's hearts? [*Allow kids to respond.*] Remind kids that in our sin, our hearts are hard and turned away from God. Jeremiah told about a day when God would forgive sin and change people's hearts. Jesus made these words come true. God forgives our sin through His Son, Jesus. He changes us and gives us power through His Spirit to obey His commands.

DISCUSSION

(Bible – 1 per group)

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Jeremiah 31:33-34. Then ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

What did Jeremiah say would be different about the new covenant? *Remind kids that covenant mean promise or agreement. In the old covenant, the people had God's commands in writing. They disobeyed His commands and made sacrifices every year for their sin. In the new covenant, God was going to write His law on their hearts. He would give His people the power to obey His commands.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 10:16.)

How does God change our hearts today? *Guide kids to identify that we all sin and, just like the people of Judah, need a heart change. God changes our hearts and invites us into a relationship with Him through Jesus. He gives us power through the Holy Spirit to obey God's commands.*

(Option: Choose a kid to read Ezek. 11:19-20.)

Why should we obey God? *Invite kids to share their ideas. Help them recognize that We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good. We don't have to earn His love. We already have it!*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 2:8-9.)

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

(Journal Page - 1 per kid, pencils)

Ask the kids the following questions:

What does this story teach me about God?

What does this story teach me about myself?

Who can I tell about this story?

Make time for prayer requests and pray for your group. If time allows, have kids complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: NEW & IMPROVED

(paper - 1 per 2-3 kids, pencils, markers)

Form groups of three or four kids. Distribute paper, pencils, and markers to the groups. Assign each group a different household product (examples: spray cleaner, vacuum, toothbrush, toilet paper). Explain that kids should work together to think of ways the product could be "new and improved." Encourage kids to design a poster advertising the better product. After several minutes, call on groups to share their advertisements.

SAY • What made each product new and better? Which new product would you like to be able to buy? [*Allow kids to respond.*] In today's Bible story, the prophet Jeremiah told God's people about something that was new and better. The old covenant was written on stone and required sacrifices for sin. The new covenant is written on the hearts of people and gives them the power to obey God. There is no longer the need for sacrifices because Jesus paid

for our sin once and for all.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Activity Page - 1 per kid)

Send home the Activity Page and encourage kids to complete it with their family.