



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

K-1 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 prophesied 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 talk about growing up. What things about getting older are exciting? Is anything about growing up scary?

SAY • Growing up can be very exciting. However, sometimes growing up can mean more responsibility, which can be a bit scary. Today we will learn about a prophet of God who feared he was too young to share God's messages with God's people.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

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

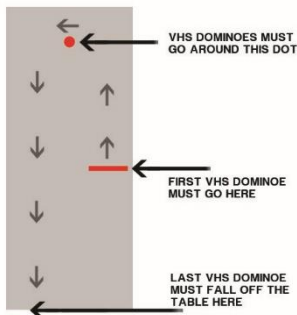
LARGE GROUP GAME

(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 messengers called prophets to call them back to God. The prophet Isaiah told about the Messiah. Messiah means special king. 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 • Jeremiah gave the people of Israel a warning. But Jeremiah also offered the people hope. Jeremiah told God's people about a new and better promise.

In the old promise, people had to obey God to get His blessings, but in the new promise, God would pour out blessings so that people could obey. Instead of having a long list of God's rules to obey, God would change people's hearts so that they wanted to obey. God would even give them the power they needed to be able to obey. The new promise would be amazing—much better than the old one. And do you know what? The new promise is already here!

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

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

(Key passage poster – 1 per group)

Say the key passage multiple times. Use the suggested motions and shortened verse below:

[If] my people [*Hold arms as though placing them around friends' shoulders.*]

pray and seek my face [*Fold hands as in prayer.*]

and turn from their evil ways [*Face left, then turn to face right.*]

then I will hear from heaven [*Cup one hand over your ear.*]

forgive their sin and heal their land. [*Place hands on heart, move hands downward to gesture to the earth.*] 2 Chronicles 7:14

SAY • God spoke these words to describe how He wants a relationship with us and fix what sin broke. He loves all people and wants what is best for us. That means He wants us to turn from sin and obey Him. He loves to forgive those who ask forgiveness and believe in Jesus.

TELEPHONE

(No supplies needed)

Ask the kids to sit in a line. Whisper a message to the first kid in line. He will whisper what he heard to the kid behind him, who will whisper that message to the next kid, and so forth down the line. The last kid will then say aloud the message she heard. Allow the last kid to move to the front of the line and play again. Continue playing as time allows. (*Message examples: Minions would look really weird with contacts, Sally sells sushi by the seashore, Dumbo's real name is Jumbo Junior, Nobody's favorite food is cabbage, Koala bears are cute and pandas bears are cuddly.*)

SAY • Hearing a message when it's whispered only once is hard. Passing on messages in that way can lead to some silly or confusing results. Thankfully, God does much more than whisper His messages to us. God told His message to people and the Holy Spirit helped them write down exactly what God said. Jeremiah told God's people about a new and better promise. We

have the Word of God written in the Bible so we can know His truth for certain, and the Holy Spirit lives in believers to help us know and obey God's Word.

DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

What did God tell Jeremiah to say about peoples' hearts? (*They trick us to disobey God, Jer. 17:9*)

What are some ways our hearts are tricky? *Help kids discuss ways their wants can lead them to disobey God, even if it seems like a good idea at the time (examples: not telling the truth, not sharing their toys, or disobeying parents). Help the kids see that those things are easy to do but lead us away from God.*

Why is the new promise better than the old promise? *Guide kids to see that in the new promise, God not only tells us how to live, but changes our hearts so we want to obey. God also promised not to remember our sin but forgive it if we ask for forgiveness.*

When did the new promise start? *Guide kids to discuss the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as the beginning of the new promise. Refer to the gospel plan/Big Story resource in your bin.*

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

(Bible Story Coloring Page - 1 per kid, crayons)

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.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Activity Page - 1 per kid)

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