

Lesson 8: The Prophet Jeremiah

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn about Jeremiah the prophet who wrote Jeremiah and Lamentations.
- 2) See that Jeremiah had many bad things happen to him, yet he continued to speak God's message that the people needed to turn back to God. He spoke to Judah in the last decades before Babylon destroyed the nation.
- 3) Do activities to remember Judah's exile, Jeremiah's steadfastness, and the need to speak God's Words no matter what.

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Lesson Review Visual Aids – one for teacher to share at the beginning of each class
- Prophets Timeline Chart – one per student to keep in class for duration of lessons
- Prophets Timeline Chart Answer Key – one for teacher
- Jeremiah Word Search and Questions – one per student
- Jeremiah Break the Code – one per student
- Map of Judah and Babylonian Captivity Color Page – one per student

Optional:

- Storybook or visuals to show students if available

Snack:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| - Your choice | enough to share |
| - Napkins | one per student |
| - Water/Cup | one per student |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Take attendance.

*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students.

Show the lesson review visual aid sheet.

Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at each picture, name what happened for the lesson we have already studied, and what we learned from that lesson.

Lesson 1: The prophets were those that spoke the word of God. They spoke to bring the people back to God and taught about Jesus. There are many prophets in the Old Testament all are important.

Lesson 2: Elijah was cared for by God through the ravens and widow and Elijah stood up for God when he opposed the false prophets of Baal. We learned that God is the Only True God.



Lesson 3: Elisha received a double portion because of his boldness and willingness to serve God. Because of God Elisha helped a widow, stopped the Syrian army, and raised a boy from the dead. We learned that God is powerful and willing to provide.

Lesson 4: Jonah disobeyed God when told to go warn the Ninevites. After a storm and being rescued by a fish that God provided, Jonah obeyed but still did not want God to be merciful to the Ninevites even though Jonah enjoyed God's mercy for himself. We learn that God is forgiving and loving and willing to give second chances.

Lesson 5: Amos and Hosea were two prophets sent to preach to wicked Israel. Hosea married a woman who did not love him back to show the sad relationship the Israelites had with God. Amos told the people that God expects justice and righteousness and that the people (and us) are to respect and care for others in need.

Lesson 6: Joel and Micah were two prophets that preached to Judah. Joel warned the people that God uses natural calamities to encourage ungodly people to repent and turn to Him when he sent the locusts. Micah taught that God is merciful but expects us to be merciful as well and help the poor and needy.

Lesson 7: Isaiah was a faithful prophet who listed many prophecies concerning Jesus, all of which came true. Isaiah spoke that God is able to save and willing to suffer to redeem His people.

2) Jeremiah – the Steadfast Prophet

20-25 minutes

Optional: Have visual aids ready to show students if available

Say: **Today we will learn about another of the Major Prophets, Jeremiah. What is the difference between a major and minor prophet? Raise your hand if you remember.** Major Prophets are only major in the sense that their books were longer. They were the same careful, righteous, faithful prophets as all the others.

Let's all turn to Jeremiah Chapter 1. Help students as needed.

Jeremiah is one of the strongest, steadfast, saddest prophets in the entire Bible. We will see how he was called to stand up to kings, princes, priests, false prophets and people knowing that none would ever turn back to God. He watched as his nation Judah, ignored his repeated warnings from God and lived to see them taken into Babylonian captivity. Jeremiah, even though he faced heart ache for 40 some years, remained true to God and kept telling others about their need for God. We can learn so much from him and find courage to do the same.

Let's read Jeremiah 1:1-3 Name the kings that ruled during the time of Jeremiah in Judah.

How many kings? 3 – Josiah (the good young king we studied during the time of the kings), as well as his disobedient sons Jehoiakim and Zechariah.

We also know that there were two other kings before and after Jehoiakim, but because they only reigned 3 months each, they were not mentioned here. So Jeremiah prophesied during the reign of 5 different kings in Judah.

According to these verses who was the last king of Judah before Judah was taken captive and went to exile in Babylon? Zechariah.

Read Jeremiah 1:4-10, 16-19

Was Jeremiah old or young when God called him to speak to the people? Young (verse 7)

Did God let Jeremiah use his young age as an excuse to not speak to others about God? No.

What does that tell us? We need to share God's word with others, regardless of our age. When we know about God, His love and His Word, we need to tell others to read the Bible, learn about God and follow Him, just like God told Jeremiah. And, we need to practice what we speak!

Who was Jeremiah to speak to in verse 18? Kings, princes, priests, people (including false prophets). **What did God say He would do for Jeremiah to prepare him?** Give Jeremiah the words to say (which everyone of us receive from reading the Bible), God promised to make Jeremiah strong like a strong city, pillar and wall – Jeremiah would not be moved by the people, and God promised to be with Jeremiah and deliver him from the people. Jesus promised us the same today when we obey and follow Him.

What does this show us for our lives today? We have God's word and we are called in the New Testament to go and tell others about Jesus. Even though we are young, there is no excuse, we can and need to tell others about God, live a life that is pleasing to Him, and know that God promises to be with us when we do.

Some interesting facts about Jeremiah:

We will see that Jeremiah obeyed God – he went and spoke to everyone God called him to – even kings and false prophets. But just because God said He would be with Jeremiah, did not mean that Jeremiah would have an easy time. He faced many hardships. But through them all, God kept His promise and delivered Jeremiah from the evil people's plans to destroy him.

Jeremiah spoke for over 40 years to at least 20 different countries and cities (Jeremiah 25:17-27). Not once did he break down in public, but when upset, he always went to God in prayer instead. Even though it was very difficult for Jeremiah, he remained steadfast and courageous and went to speak to foreign kings and his own people warning them of God's wrath to come if they did not repent.

Jeremiah's book is the longest prophetic book in the Bible. He also wrote another book just after Jeremiah called Lamentations. All Jeremiah's warning about Jerusalem came true, and Lamentations records five poems of sorrow for the fallen city.

Listen while I read Jeremiah 7:27 when God speaks to Jeremiah.

"So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you."

How would you feel if you were told to speak to people that would not listen. And that all your work for over 40 years would not result in one person turning back to God? Let students answer.

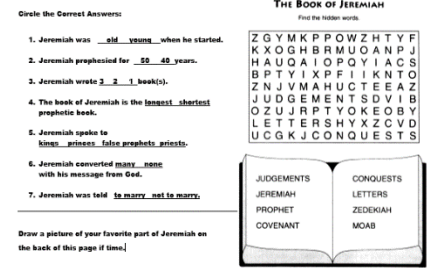
Even though Jeremiah knew that they would not listen, he spoke to them anyway out of loving kindness and the strength of God. We are called to do the same – regardless of whether people listen to us or not, we still have a duty to tell them about Jesus.

Jeremiah was also told by God not to marry in Jeremiah 16:2 because the sons and daughters of the people would die because of the impending captivity by Babylon.

When Judah was taken into captivity by Babylon, they left behind just women, old men, a few prophets and Gedaliah as a governor. But after a while, the people rebelled and killed Gedaliah and knowing that they would be in trouble, the entire group that remained in Judah fled to Egypt, against God's command, forcing Jeremiah to go with them.

15-20 minutes

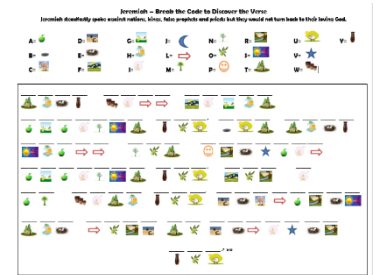
After students have done all the questions as a group. Put the papers aside until later and move onto the section of your lesson. Students can come back if time and do the word search and draw a picture at the end of the lesson.



1. Jeremiah was old young when he started.
2. Jeremiah prophesied for 50 40 years.
3. Jeremiah wrote 3 2 1 book(s). (**Jeremiah and Lamentations.**)
4. The book of Jeremiah is the longest shortest prophetic book.
5. Jeremiah spoke to kings princes false prophets priests. (Circle all.)
6. Jeremiah converted many none with his message from God.
7. Jeremiah was told to marry not to marry.

10-15 minutes

They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the Lord, to deliver you.” Jeremiah 1:19 ESV



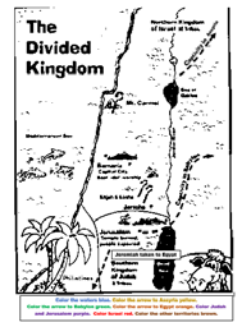
Is God with us when we stand up for Him and tell others? Yes!

10-15 minutes

Why? In hopes that people would hear and turn from doing evil.

What did the king want to do to Jeremiah? Find and seize him.

God calls us to speak, just like Jeremiah, regardless of how people respond. God protected Jeremiah and he will protect us too! If we don't speak up for Jesus, Jesus won't speak up for us on the Day of Judgment. If we do speak for God, we are promised, love, protection, salvation, and peace in our hearts.

[illegible]

What did we learn last time about Isaiah? See Teacher Answer Key

What can we fill in under Jeremiah for major events? See Teacher Answer Key

What did we see in today's lesson about the power of God? See Teacher Answer Key

God loves us very much, He sends people to share the saving message of Jesus to all the world. We are called to tell others about Jesus, regardless of their response. God will protect us when we do and expects us to, even when we face difficulties like Jeremiah. But like Jeremiah, we can remain steadfast, faithful and firm in our belief that Jesus is Lord and Savior and there is no other way to be saved but through Him. Aren't we blessed to have such a loving, wonderful, powerful, and capable God?

Next week we will study Nahum, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk and finish up the time of warning and consequence to Judah and their captivity to Babylon.

Help students fill in or draw correct events they remember of today's account.

Put sheets away and keep for next week.

***Encourage students to read **Nahum, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk** during the week on their own to be prepared for next time.

8) Learning from the Time of the Prophets

5 minutes

Say:

What did we learn today? Let students answer.

What do you think of Jeremiah's strength and faithfulness to God?

If time let students finish the word search and drawing activity from the first page.

Ask students the questions they had done at the beginning of the class and see how many they can remember without looking.

Optional questions to ask:

What did you like best about today's Bible lesson?

What questions do you have about today's lesson?

I encourage you to read some of the books of Nahum, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk at home this week which will prepare you for the next prophet we will learn about.

9) Learning the Prophets Through Song

5-10 minutes

Go to the front of your Bible and find the Table of Contents. You will see a long list of books of the Bible in the Old Testament. Remember that the order in the Bible is not necessarily the order in which the prophets lived and worked. But to make it easy for us, we will learn the books in the order listed in the Bible.

Sing the Old Testament books to the tune of the Alphabet song. "Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers" (A,B,C,D,E,F,G)... you will have to repeat the alphabet tune twice to get through all the books.

When you get to Song of Solomon, that is when the alphabet tune starts again, that is where you will start each week, even though Song of Solomon is not a prophet book.

Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

Repeat this section 2 times each week as a way to practice learning. Encourage students to practice at home as well. You may even decide to offer a prize or praise for each student who can recite all the books of the prophets from memory as you go through the quarter.

10) Optional: Memory Verse 2-5 minutes

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **Hebrews 1:1-2** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: "God, who at various times" a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point up when you say "GOD", point to their mouths when they say "SPOKE", etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

11) Optional – Snack: Your choice 5 minutes

Ensure you check for allergies first. Hand out a few pieces to each student and say,
Let's all remember that God loves us so much and will protect us when we tell others about Jesus. We can be strong, just like Jeremiah, even though he was young and alone – he remained true to God and did not get caught up in the sins of everyone around him.

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands if needed. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking. What did they like best about today's Bible reading? What questions do they have about today's lesson? How was God's power shown?

12) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank You Lord for all You provide us. Thank You for Your Son who has given us Your complete words and will through the Bible. Who obeyed You and died for our sins. Forgive us when we sin and help us to learn Your words by looking in the Bible. Help us to take the time to devote and dedicate our lives to You, as the prophets did, eager to share Your word with others, for You are worthy, good, awesome and loving towards us. Help us be merciful and forgiving as You are. Pray for those who could not be here today, and pray for those here who have special issues in their life. Be with them, guide, comfort, and bless them. In Jesus' name, amen.