



# JEREMIAH, PROPHET OF JUDAH



## THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

### **Instructions**

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

### **Tell the Bible Story**

When Josiah was the king of Judah, God called a priest named Jeremiah to be a prophet. God told Jeremiah, "I knew you before I made you in your mother's womb. Before you were born, I chose you to do very special things. I chose you to be a prophet to the nations."

"Oh no, God!" Jeremiah said. "I don't know how to speak in front of other people. I'm just a boy, only a youth."

"Don't say that," God replied. "You will go where I send you and say what I tell you to say. I am with you. I will protect you."

For many years, Jeremiah spoke God's message to the people of Judah. He reminded them that God had made a covenant with them: If they obeyed Him, He would bless them. But the people did not obey. Now God had to punish their sin. God said the people would lose their



land, their wealth, and their freedom.

Jeremiah explained that people's hearts fool them into thinking they are better than they actually are. They trick people into wanting things or doing things that God does not want for them. The people did not want to listen to Jeremiah, and Jeremiah was sad. He warned them that God's punishment was coming, but he also said that God had a plan to change His people's hearts. God promised a new and better covenant so the people could be saved from their sins. God would write His law on people's hearts. He would give His people power to obey His commands. God said, "I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sin."

God told Jeremiah to write God's message on a scroll. So Jeremiah spoke God's words, and his friend Baruch (BAY rook) wrote the words on a scroll. Baruch read from the scroll so that all the people heard God's words. He warned that the king of Babylon would come and destroy Judah.

King Jehoiakim sent one of his officials to get the scroll. As the official read the scroll, King Jehoiakim cut off each part of the scroll and threw it into the fire. He did this until the entire scroll was burned up.

So God told Jeremiah to write another scroll with the same words as the first scroll. Jeremiah told the king, "God is going to punish you, your family, and your leaders for doing wrong things. God warned you that disaster will come to Judah but you did not listen."

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

*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 Skills - Older

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to the Book of Jeremiah. Remind kids that the Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed about 100 years before Jeremiah's time as a prophet. Explain that Jeremiah lived in the last years of the kingdom of Judah. King Jehoiakim had destroyed Jeremiah's scroll, and within Jeremiah's lifetime, the people of Judah would be captured.

Read aloud 1 Kings 17:13-14. Ask the following questions. Lead your kids and discuss:

1. What did Jeremiah say would be different about the new covenant?

*Remind your kids that 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.*

2. How does God change our hearts today?

*Guide your kids to identify that Jesus came to establish the new covenant. 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.*

3. Why should we obey God?

*Invite your 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!*

## SAY:

*Jeremiah's message was to stop sinning and turn back to God before it was too late. Jeremiah told God's people about a new and better covenant.*

## Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Help your kids find the Book of Jeremiah. Discuss which Bible division it is in, and ask kids to name other books in the Major Prophets. (Isaiah–Daniel)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Who was king of Judah when Jeremiah was called as a prophet?

*Josiah, Jer. 1:2*

2. What did God tell Jeremiah to say about peoples' hearts?

*They are sick and trick us to sin, Jer. 17:9*

3. What did King Jehoiakim do with the scroll Jeremiah and Baruch wrote?

*Burned it up bit by bit, Jer. 36:23*

4. What are some ways our hearts are tricky?

*Guide your kids to discuss the things like money, power, or fame that we may chase after. Help the kids see that those things cannot satisfy us and often lead us away from God. When we worship anything—even a good thing— besides God, it is sin. Only God deserves worship. Discuss the idea that sin isn't just wanting or doing bad things, but also wanting or doing things in ways that don't honor God's plans.*

5. Why is the new covenant better?

*Guide your kids to see that under the new covenant, God not only gives the commands to the people, but writes them on their hearts. Remind kids that under the new covenant, God promised not to remember our sin, but forgive it.*

6. When did the new covenant start?

*Guide your kids to discuss the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as the beginning of the new covenant. Explain that Jesus' perfect and complete sacrifice undid the curse of sin and made it so that believers no longer need to offer sacrifices for forgiveness. Explain how the Holy Spirit, who lives in the hearts of believers, helps us remember and obey God's teachings.*

## SAY:

*Jeremiah told God's people about a new and better covenant. Jesus brought about the start of the new covenant.*