

Jeremiah



Intermediate Workbook
Manitoulin Youth Camp 2023



Dear Camper,

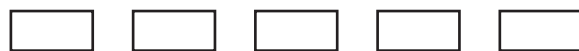
We are excited to be studying the life of Jeremiah this year at Manitoulin Youth Camp from July 22-29, 2023, God willing. This workbook is for children born in 2011 and 2012. It will help you to prepare for our week of studies together.

We would recommend that you try to listen to or read all the Bible readings listed at least five times before camp. This will help in understanding the story better and in preparing for the morning quizzes.

There are a variety of ways to do this. Here are a few suggestions:

- Read the Bible passages together as a family.
- Listen to a dramatized version of the Bible passages using Bible Gateway, Podcasts, etc.
- Play the Bible passages while you are driving in the car together.
- Print out the Bible passages and have the children highlight important words and phrases in the stories.

Color in a box every time you read/listen to all the Bible passages for the week.



There are four parts to your pre-camp assignment: 1) the workbook, 2) a minute meditation, 3) preparation for the morning quizzes and memory verses and 4) a special project. Try to get started as soon as possible and do your best work!

If you have any questions about the workbook, please don't hesitate to call or send a note to:

Aunt Julie Snobelen
(thesnobelens@hotmail.com) or 519-841-0512



To complete your workbook you will need:

- Bible
- sharp pencil
- eraser (just in case)
- coloured pencils
- Strong's Concordance or access to a Bible program such as E-Sword or Blue Letter Bible

Don't forget to pray before you begin. Ask God to help you understand His word.

- Use a PENCIL so that it is easier to correct mistakes.
- Read the verses in the heading before you try to do the questions.
- Read everything in the workbook. Some questions will be easier to answer if you have read the information given to you throughout the book.
- If you are having trouble with a question, put a star next to it and move on to the next question. When you have completed the section, go back and try again. If you still can't get it ask someone for help or email me.

Preparation for Morning Quizzes and Memory Verses

There will be Bible readings and a memory verse from the life of Jeremiah every day at camp. You will be quizzed on the verse and the readings each morning. Below is the list of readings and verses for the quizzes each day. We suggest that you memorize these verses and read over these readings before camp to help you in your preparation for the week.

Monday:

Memory Verse:

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." Jeremiah 1:5

Daily Principle:

Have courage, fight the battle!

Readings: Jeremiah 1:1-19; 2:1-13

Read only: 1 Peter 1:13-16; Psalm 34:7, 15-19

Tuesday:

Memory Verse:

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

Daily Principle:

Cleave to God!

Readings: Jeremiah 1:1-19; 2:1-13

Read only: 1 Peter 1:13-16; Psalm 34:7, 15-19

Wednesday:

Memory Verse:

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18

Daily Principle:

Become a vessel to honour!

Readings: Jeremiah 18:1-23; 19:1-15

Read only: 2 Corinthians 4:7-8

Thursday:

Memory Verse:

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is." Jeremiah 17:7

Daily Principle:

Trust in God!

Readings: Jeremiah 37:1-21; 38:1-13

Friday:

Memory Verse: "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." Jeremiah 32:17

Daily Principle: Seal your inheritance!

Readings: Jeremiah 39:1-18; 32:1-25 Read only Jeremiah 12:1-17

Minute Meditations

We encourage you to prepare a Minute Meditation to present to your camp group and you can also volunteer to present it at one of the evening programs during the week.

You will need to choose one verse on which to base your Minute Meditation. A Minute Meditation is an opportunity for you to meditate or think about a verse from the study and share what you have learned in approximately one minute. You will read the verse and then tell what you have learned from the verse. You can share what you have learned about God and His character, or what you have learned about the people in the verse, or how this verse relates to other verses in the Bible, or how it relates to your life or a combination of these ideas.

The passages are divided up by the first letter of your last name. Please find the first letter of your last name below and choose a verse from one of the passages listed next to that letter to use for your Minute Meditation.

A-C: Jeremiah 1:1-19; 2:1-13

D-K: Jeremiah 13:1-14; 25:1-14; 11:18-23

L-Q: Jeremiah 18:1-23; 19:1-15

R-S: Jeremiah 37:1-21; 38:1-13

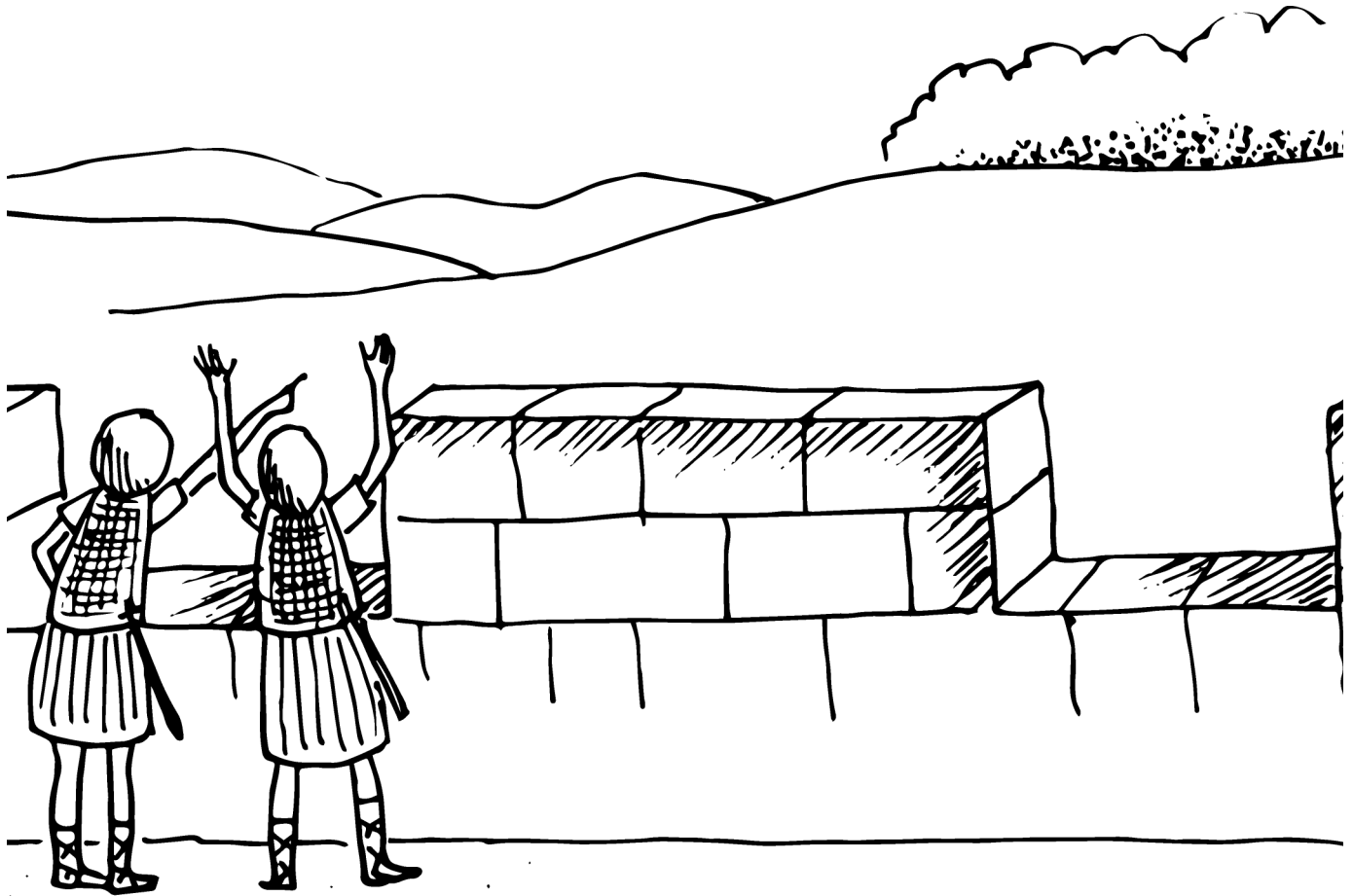
T-Z: Jeremiah 39:1-18; 32:1-25

Special Project

Choose one of these to do either on your own or in pairs.

if appropriate, make a copy for your teacher, and copies for your classmates (about 40).

1. Create a short illustrated picture book about an event in Jeremiah's life.
2. Make a crossword about the life of Jeremiah.
3. Create a newspaper article or TV report about an event in this time period
4. Create a timeline for Jeremiah's life - include the kings of Israel and Judah.
5. If you have your own idea for a project, check with Uncle Joe and Auntie Kate at joeandkate41203@yahoo.ca



Do you wonder why terrible things happen sometimes and why not only does God not stop them, He is behind them? The book of Jeremiah helps us to understand a little bit about this because the people of Judah needed to understand this too. They had to accept that they could not simply blame an angry God for what happened to them; they had played their own significant part in it. They also had to believe that the bad things that happened could be turned around for good. Even when things seemed dark, there was hope.

Read Jeremiah 1:1-3.

Who was Jeremiah?

The son of _____ v1

Family occupation _____ v1

Home town _____ v1

Lived in the tribal territory of _____ v1

The kings who reigned while he prophesied _____ v2

_____ v3

Read Jeremiah 1:4-10

How did he know he was to be a prophet? V4-5

When did God know He would call Jeremiah to be a prophet? V5

What did Jeremiah think of himself? V6



It was a scary prospect to be given such a task as a “prophet to the nations”. Jeremiah was a young country boy, and God wanted him to speak to the nations?! But God is not asking him to do it alone, and He is not asking Jeremiah to come up with his own message. Even though he may not have been aware of it, God has been with him all his life so far preparing him to be His prophet.

Maybe you think that until you decide to be baptized, God doesn’t really pay much attention to you. But this is not true. All of our lives, right from our births, whether we are raised in a family that believes in God or not, are watched over by God. He has plans for each one of us in our little place in the world, all different and all important. Youth is a wonderful time to learn to see God in your life and understand His ways and be willing to work for Him.

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 1:5. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God is aware of everything that goes on in His Creation.
He knows me!

* * *

How would Jeremiah know what to say? V9

What are the six things that Jeremiah would do through the words he spoke? V10

It's really important to see that there is a purpose in the words that Jeremiah would speak. His words were not just to condemn and cause despair, but to bring about change for good. God is not a mean and angry God, but He is a God of justice. Judah had come to the point that required a demolish and rebuild.

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 1:10. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God tears down and roots up so that He can build and plant.

* * *

In the Bible, there were only a few who were called to be prophets. Most people were called to respond to the message of the prophet.

Look up the following verses and write down what you think it says about what a prophet is or does:

Genesis 20:7 _____

Numbers 12:6 _____

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 _____

Deuteronomy 18:18 _____

Jeremiah 28:9 _____

2 Chronicles 24:19 _____

2 Peter 1:20-21 _____

Who first prophesied the exile into Babylon, and in whose reign? (2 Kings 20:16-18)

Background:

Hezekiah was said to be a good king. He repaired the Temple and made an effort to get rid of idolatry in the land. During his reign the northern nation of Israel was taken away into captivity by the Assyrians. The Assyrians also made an attempt on Jerusalem but God did not allow them to succeed. Hezekiah became very sick and close to death at one point and after pleading with God, his life was extended for 15 years. During that time he had a son named Manasseh.

How old was Manasseh when he became king? 2 Chronicles 33:1

Manasseh became known as the most wicked king of Judah. **Read 2 Chronicles 33:1-9** and make a list of some of the things he did.

Read 2 Chronicles 33:11-13. What surprising thing does Manasseh do? V12

The sad thing about sin, is that its effects are not easily altered by a change of heart. After Manasseh died, his son became king but quickly reversed any reforms Manasseh had begun.

Read 2 Chronicles 33:21-25, and write down his name, God's summary of his life, and what happened to him.



By this time, the people of Judah were in a very bad place. Going after the gods of other nations had always been a problem for them, and the fifty-five years of Manasseh's reign had made it more deep-rooted than ever. In fact, it was so normal that many of the people couldn't seem to see anything wrong with it. They had come to see the God of Israel as just another god to add to their collection.

When Amon was killed, the next king put on the throne was only eight years old: he was still a squirt in Kid's Camp language. We are not told who influenced the early days of Josiah, but it is clear that he grew up with a knowledge of God and a desire to serve Him, unlike his father.

Read through 2 Chronicles 34:1-8.

How old was Josiah when he began to seek God? (remember that the year of his reign is not how old he was, you have to figure that out). V3

This is another example of how choosing God when young can make such a difference in your life. So often people have to make mistakes themselves before they can learn what not to do -

but we can learn from the mistakes of others if we are willing to listen, and not have to make them ourselves. Perhaps Josiah, even though he was young at the time, had been willing to listen to his grandpa (King Manasseh) regret what he had done.

How old was Josiah when he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem? V3

What was he purging from his kingdom? V4,5

How far outside of Judah did his purge go? V7

In his 18th year, so when he was 26, what did he begin to do? V8

Read through 2 Chronicles 34:14-20.

What was discovered by Hilkiah? V14

What did the king do when Shaphan read the book to him? V19

Josiah found out from Huldah a prophetess that God was indeed intending to bring evil on the people for all they had done, but God recognized Josiah's heartfelt sorrow and desire to serve Him properly therefore it would not happen in his lifetime. I don't imagine that Josiah took comfort in that the evil wouldn't happen in his lifetime, instead it made him try even harder to bring the people back to God.

What did Josiah do to make sure all of Judah knew what was in this book? (2 Kings 23:2)

What did Josiah make for all of the people? (2 Kings 23:3)

Soon after this Josiah arranged a national passover celebration. The Passover was of course meant to remind the people that God brought them out of Egypt to be His people.

What was said about this passover celebration? (2 Chronicles 35:18)

Josiah did his best to turn the people back to the LORD. He was a good king and led by example but it could never just be about having a good king. The people needed to want to be God's people themselves. They couldn't be like their God unless they wanted to be.

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16.

What was it that they needed to be?

Being one of God's children does mean a separation from the things that may be attractive to us but will only lead us away from God. It is natural for us to think that following our desires or what we think will make us happy is what is good for us, but our desires need some training. We may desire Fruit Loops rather than oatmeal porridge, but the truth is that oatmeal porridge is much better for us. So like we need to trust our parents when we are young about what to eat, we must also learn to trust that as our Creator, God knows what is best for us and that His ways are truly for our good, and so train ourselves to love what He loves!

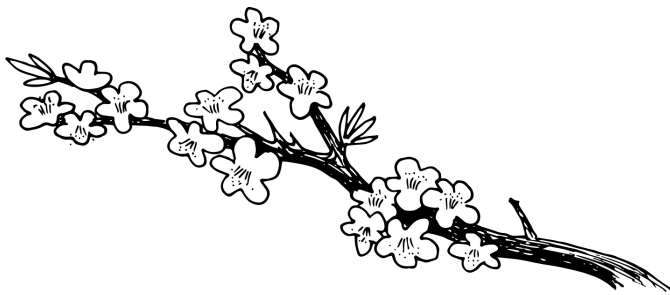
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Take a coloured pencil and underline 1 Peter 1:14-16. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God is holy (perfect in goodness and righteousness) and
He wants us to want to be holy too for our own good!

* * *

It was during Josiah's 13th year that Jeremiah was called to be a prophet. Some people think this refers to when he was born, others think this is when God first spoke to him. If it was when God first spoke to him, he was probably still quite a young man and not someone the king would think of consulting since he didn't seem to have much interaction with Josiah.



Read Jeremiah 1:11-12.

What was the first thing that Jeremiah saw as a prophet? V11

In Israel, the almond tree is the first tree to come into bloom in the spring. All of you who experience a real Canadian winter can appreciate how exciting it is to see a sign of life like that after months of everything looking dead. It gives us hope that spring is coming and soon everything will be beautiful and alive again.

The almond tree has spiritual significance too. In the tabernacle, the golden lampstand was made to look like an almond tree. It had branches, and each branch had almond flowers that held the oil and the wick for making light.

How often were they kept burning? (Leviticus 24:2-4) _____

Robert Roberts in his book *The Law of Moses* suggests that the lampstand was a symbol of God and people working together in the sense that the word of God in people creates light. On another occasion, Aaron's rod budded, blossomed, and produced almonds to demonstrate that he was the man chosen by God to come near Him as the people's representative.

I think this might tell us that the first vision Jeremiah is given is a hopeful one. Although it may not always have seemed like it, Jeremiah's work would be the working out of a good purpose to make the people what God wanted them to be, although this didn't happen in Jeremiah's lifetime. The words he spoke and wrote down would continue to work after his death.

What does God say He is doing in relation to the vision of the almond branch? V12

Look up the word "hasten" in a concordance and write down the Hebrew word and what it means. (You can use an actual Strong's concordance, or look it up using a Bible app such as Blue Letter Bible - ask your parents for help if you don't know how to do this).

This Hebrew word is very similar to the Hebrew word for almonds. This is common in the Bible where two words that are very similar are used together to create a wordplay. In this case, the almond branch is a reminder that God is not passively waiting for things to happen. He is watching over it all and is right there doing whatever needs doing to work out His purpose.

Sometimes the performing of God's word is not what we would prefer and in Jeremiah's lifetime he may have had many occasions when it seemed like nothing was going right, and God's words were only creating disaster, but they were doing what needed to be done - first plucking up and pulling down so that something better could be planted and built.

I think he would have thought of this vision of a blossoming almond branch often as a reminder that in the end God had good in mind for His people, and that what God had told him would in fact come to pass even though for many years it didn't seem likely.

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 1:12. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God is always watching over His Word and working it out.

* * *

Read Jeremiah 1:13-16.

The second vision was rather discouraging.

Read Jeremiah 1:13 in a translation of the Bible other than the King James Version and write down what Jeremiah saw.



Part of the performing of God's word included evil breaking forth on the people of Judah.

What would the kingdoms of the north set at the gates of Jerusalem, the walls, and the cities? V15

What are three wicked things Judah has done? V16

Look up the word "forsaken" in a concordance. What does it mean?

In Jeremiah 3, God uses the analogy of a man and his wife to describe His relationship with Israel. Marriage is meant to be the exclusive joining of a man and a woman for life for the purpose of raising a godly family. And that was God's purpose in His relationship with Israel: godly sons and daughters. But Judah, instead of being faithful to God, had gone after all the gods of the nations. They had forsaken Him.

Read Exodus 19:3-6.

What does God promise to those who keep His covenant? V5

The nation of Israel was also told exactly what would happen if they broke their covenant with God.

What does God say will happen in Deuteronomy 31:16-17?

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 3:19. Write the following beside it in the margin:

A covenant with God has privileges (His protection and blessing)
but also obligations (His law).

* * *

In the Bible, burning incense is likened to prayer. There was a golden altar in the tabernacle, set in front of the veil that separated the holy place from the most holy. On this altar, Aaron was to burn incense every morning and evening.

Read Exodus 30:34-38.

What was the incense to be made from? V34

Why were they not to make this incense for their own use? V37

Praying to God is desiring a relationship with Him. We pray to acknowledge God's majesty, to thank Him for things He has done, to ask for His guidance and protection. How do you think burning incense or praying to other gods would change our relationship with the true God?

Look up the word "worshipped" in a concordance. What does it mean to worship?

Jeremiah describes the "works of their own hands" that the people worshiped.

Read Jeremiah 10:1-13.

What can these works of their own hands do? V5

What will happen to these gods? V11

In contrast, what has the God of Israel done? V12,13

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 10:11-16. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God is the only living Creator of the universe and controller of all its forces!

* * *

It is easy to see the faults of Israel here and wonder why they would have been so silly as to worship “scarecrows in a cucumber field”. They had forsaken their own God, were cultivating relationships with gods that could do nothing, and bowing down to their own inventions. Couldn't they see where it was taking them? But that is the problem with all people. We do not always see our own mistakes, we do not always see clearly what path we are going down, we do not always see what is proving to be our master. We need the words of God, sometimes spoken through another person, most often read from His word the Bible, to direct us back to what is right and true.

Write out Jeremiah 10:23.



Read Jeremiah 1:17-19.

Jeremiah was given a job to do that was no easy task! People do not like to be corrected, or threatened with judgments and they would fight against Jeremiah. However, God assures him that He will be with him.

What does God say he will make Jeremiah like to them? V18

Read Jeremiah 2:1-3.

(Read this section from a more modern version of the Bible such as the ESV or the NIV.)

What does God remember about Israel after He first brought them out of Egypt? V2

How did He protect them? V3

It is quite common for humans to get quite excited about something at first only to have the excitement diminish and desire something else instead. Often this is because we think there is something else more exciting that we are missing out on, or that something else would satisfy us more or make us happier.

Read Jeremiah 2:4-8.

What is the result of their desire for something else? V5

What could they have remembered that would have helped them to remain loyal to their God? Make a list. V6-7

In contrast to the wilderness, what was the land like that God brought them to? (Deuteronomy 8:7-9)?



How was it different than the land of Egypt they had left? (Deuteronomy 11:10)

This is a common problem that people have. When surrounded by beauty and plenty, it becomes something that is just expected instead of something to give thanks for every day. Instead of being satisfied, we just want more.

Write down a few things that you enjoy every day, and are things God has done for you, but that maybe you take for granted. Try to get to what it is exactly that God has done. For example, did you have a glass of milk? Did you think that in order for you to have that glass of milk, it wasn't simply a trip to the grocery store but there had to be grass, and water, and sunlight because cows can only make milk if they have lots of grass to eat, and of course there had to be a cow raised by a hard-working farmer. Which of those things did God do?

Does it help you to love God more when you remember these things as things He has done for you and take time to thank Him for them?

Instead of enjoying what God gave them, what did the people do to the land? V7

How did the people do this to God's land? (Psalm 106:34-39).

Instead of teaching the people about God, what did the priests do? V8

Instead of leading the people in God's ways, what did the pastors do? V8

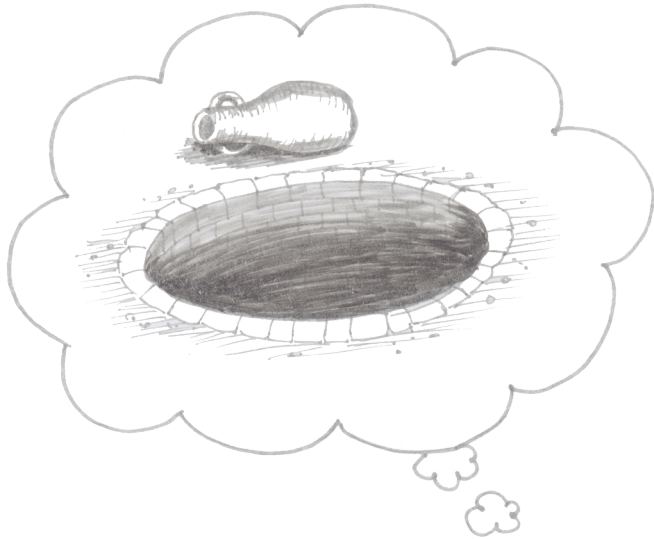
Instead of speaking God's words to the people, what did the prophets do? V8

Read Jeremiah 2:10-13.

The sad thing was that even the nations around Judah were faithful to their own gods.

What had God's people exchanged Him for? V11

What two evils had they committed? V13



What is the difference between a fountain and a cistern?

Which would you rather drink from? _____

Why doesn't it make sense to forsake a fountain for a cistern, especially one with leaks?

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 2:13. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God is like a fountain of clear, cold, living water.

* * *

What had the people become instead of the choice vine God planted? V21 _____

Was it possible to wash their guilt away? V22 _____

Who did they claim was their father and had given birth to them? V27 _____

The nation of Judah had seen what happened to the northern kingdom of Israel for their unfaithfulness to God. Assyria was a nation east of Israel/Judah who for a long time had been spreading outward, killing and burning and terrorizing, and deporting any captives they took to other cities far away. A hundred years previously (when Hezekiah was king over Judah) they had marched into Israel and besieged the capital Samaria until it fell and most of the people were taken away, and other people from other places the Assyrians had conquered brought in to take their place.

Instead of taking this as a lesson, Judah was following in Israel's footsteps. It is hard to learn from the mistakes of others, but it saves so much heartache and wasted time.

God has given us a record of lots of human experience to learn from. We can get a pretty good idea of the consequences of many human actions from the characters in the Bible. Can you think of a few characters in the Bible that made mistakes?

Despite their unfaithfulness however, and the fact that it was them who had broken the covenant, God was still prepared to plead with them to return to Him. He is a God of mercy!

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 3:13-14. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God is merciful! He is willing to take people back if they return to Him.

* * *

What did they need to do to truly turn back to God? (Jeremiah 3:13)

But instead, what are the people like? (Jeremiah 4:22)

What has been their response to God? (Jeremiah 5:3)

Why would they not listen to Jeremiah? (Jeremiah 6:10)

What was the evil that would come upon them the fruit of? (Jeremiah 6:19)

something to think about:

Take a moment and use your imagination:

Imagine you are Jeremiah: God asked him to speak words to the people that were not words they wanted to hear. Remember that Jeremiah was not primarily speaking to people who did not know God, he was speaking to people who were meant to be God's covenant people, and who actually thought they were, but needed to start living like it. People who do not

know God at all need to find out about God in a different way: by observing a people who truly believe in Him and act like it, and therefore demonstrate how wonderful God is. This is what God's covenant people were meant to be doing.

Jeremiah had to trust that God's words were true and that He would do what He said. And because God had given him things to say, he had the responsibility to speak even if the people would fight against him. But he also had to know that he was tearing down and plucking up for the purpose of building and planting.

What would it feel like to stand up and tell your friends and family what they were doing was wrong? What if you knew that if they would change, things would be so much better?

Imagine you are one of the people: Perhaps you had forgotten that God does not share His role of being God with anyone. Perhaps you had forgotten that God is a holy God who asks His people to become holy and that means more than just coming to the Temple once in a while and offering a sacrifice.

Would you be willing to be corrected? Would you be willing to examine your life for unfaithfulness and wicked ways? Would you remember all the things that God has done for you?



Josiah reigned for 31 years over Judah. For the little kingdom of Judah, placed between two much larger powers, an arrangement for the protection of Assyria had been made under the reign of Ahaz. This had required large amounts of tribute every year in order for Assyria to let them peacefully exist. But Assyria was declining as a power, and Pharaoh-Necho, king of Egypt, decided to come up through Judah to assist the Assyrians against Babylon which was a rising power at the time. It is not clear why Josiah decided to do what he did, but he went out against the Pharaoh's armies and was killed.

Who mourned for Josiah? (2 Chronicles 35:24,25)

Who was made king in Josiah's place? (2 Chronicles 36:1) _____

How old was he? How long did he reign? What was God's summation of him? (2 Kings 23:31-32)

The king of Egypt now considered that he controlled Judah and made them pay taxes to him. He did not let Jehoahaz reign very long. Instead he set up his brother as king and took Jehoahaz to Egypt.

Who was king now? (2 Kings 23:34) _____

How old was he? How long did he reign? What was God's summation of him? (2 Kings 23:36-37)

For the first four years of his reign, Judah was taxed heavily to pay the tribute to Pharaoh-Necho, king of Egypt. Then Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egypt at Carchemish, a city on the western bank of the Euphrates. He also took Jerusalem, carrying away captive a great multitude of the Jews, among whom were Daniel and his friends.

It is important to remember that there were always a small number who were faithful to God among the people of Israel and Judah. There may not have been very many, but Daniel and his friends are an example of a few. Although being taken away as captives from their homeland would have been sad and difficult, it was also God's way of protecting those who loved Him.

Three years after this, Jehoiakim, who was reigning in Jerusalem subject to Babylon, rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, trusting that Egypt would help him. As a result, Nebuchadnezzar came and laid siege to Jerusalem probably sometime during the last year of his reign.

The people in Judah had come to believe that because Jerusalem was God's chosen city and His temple was there, that God would protect it for that reason alone. This allowed them to feel that it did not really matter what they did or thought in their hearts, God was bound by a covenant to keep them safe. But this was not the case.

Read Jeremiah 7:1-7.

What did the people need to do in order to have God's protection? V3

What were the ways they needed to fix? V5-6

What were they doing instead? (Jeremiah 7:9-10)

Who was involved in these activities? (Jeremiah 7:18)

What would be said of the nation? (Jeremiah 7:28)

God compares the people to birds who year after year are faithful to their times of migration, while His people pay no attention to what God requires of them. They think they are wise and rich and mighty, but in reality they are poor, blind, and naked.

If they want to boast about something, what should they boast about? (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Josiah had made an effort to renew the covenant between God and the nation during his reign, but the people seemed to be oblivious to the fact that a covenant with God did not only provide privileges in God's blessing and protection, but also duties which they had to perform. Their reform didn't last very long.

In a way, there were two parts to the covenant God made with His people. The ten commandments were the individual side of the covenant, given at Mount Sinai. There God provided the ten words for becoming a people who would manifest Him to the world around them. The other side of the covenant was given at Mount Horeb right before the people entered the promised land, and dealt with the people as a nation instead of individuals and obedience or disobedience would be reckoned as a whole people. To survive as a nation the people needed to support one another in their true worship of God, they had to care about one another enough to live correctly for others as well as themselves.

Read Exodus 20:2-7.

List three things the people were not to do as part of obeying the voice of God. V3-5

What would be the result of their national obedience? (Deuteronomy 28:9-10)

What would be the result of their national disobedience? (Deuteronomy 29:25-28)

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 7:5-7. Write the following beside it in the margin:

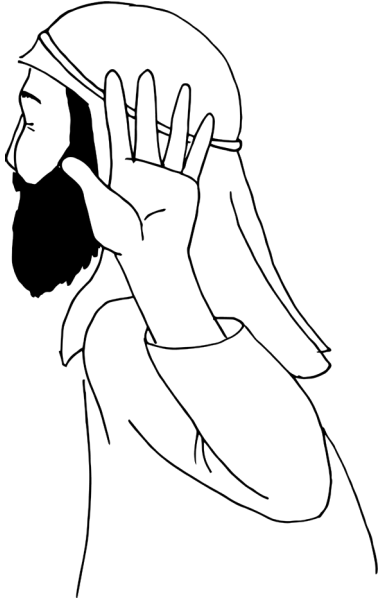
God wants people to take care of one another by obeying His laws.

* * *

Read Jeremiah 11:1-8.

What part of the covenant was the responsibility of the people? V4

Look up the word "hear" in verse 2 in a concordance. What does it mean? This word is used 186 times in Jeremiah (by far the most of any book of the Bible).



Can you guess which word in verse 4 is the same word? _____

What was to be the result of hearing and obeying? V4

When God said "Obey my voice", what did they do with their ears? V8

What did they do instead? V8

Read Jeremiah 11:9-13.

What was found among the men of Judah? V9

This word is also translated "treason". Look up both these words in an English dictionary. What do they mean?

How were the men of Judah doing this? V10

What would be the result? V11

Who would help them when things got tough? V12

Read Jeremiah 11:14-17

What was Jeremiah told not to do? V14

What was he to pronounce against the people instead? V17 _____

One of the tasks of a prophet was to mediate between the people and God. But prayers for mercy would only make the situation worse because the people did not want to recognize their sin. Although the people themselves were guilty of treason to their God, they instead saw in Jeremiah's refusal to pray and prophesy for the protection of the people as himself being guilty of treason. Often people see the very sin in others that they are guilty of themselves.

Read Jeremiah 11:18-23

What was being plotted against Jeremiah? V19

Who were these people? V21

Can you imagine the loneliness Jeremiah would have felt when even the people who knew him well, from his own hometown, were plotting against him? Have you ever felt lonely because you were standing up for what was right?

Who did Jeremiah turn to for comfort? V20 _____

You can do this too!

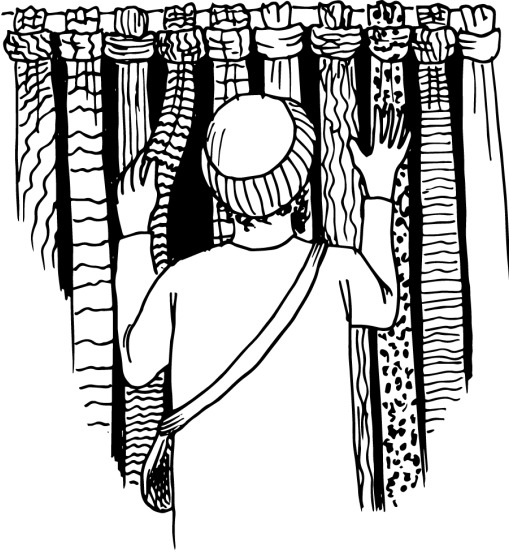
* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 11:21-23. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God will always be just. Evil intentions and actions are eventually punished.

* * *

Words are really important, but it was often helpful for the prophets to provide an object lesson for the people, something they could also see instead of just hear. So God told Jeremiah to get himself a linen girdle.



This girdle was probably like a belt that tied around the waist providing the ability for activity as it was often used to hold tools or a sword. Money could be tucked into it or one's tunic could be pulled up and tucked into it when it was time to be active. Often they were embroidered, and in Exodus 28:40 it was one of the items a priest wore for glory and for beauty.

Read Jeremiah 13:1-7.

What did God tell Jeremiah to do with his lovely new linen girdle?
V4

What do you think the girdle looked like when he went to get it again after many days? V7

Read Jeremiah 13:8-11.

Like a beautiful girdle, what had God hoped Israel and Judah would be? V11

Instead what had they done? V10

What would God ruin like the girdle? V9

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 13:11. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God's ways make people into something praiseworthy and glorious!

* * *

Read Jeremiah 13:12-14.

What would every bottle be filled with? V12 _____

This is actually more of a saying that meant that everything would come right in the end. If God had a noble purpose and good plans for who His people would be, surely it would come to pass in the end and all would be well. The people agreed with this, but what they didn't understand was that although God's good purpose would surely be fulfilled, there was some plucking up and pulling down that needed to be done first. Bottles can certainly be filled with wine, but they can also be broken.

What did God say would happen to them? V14 _____

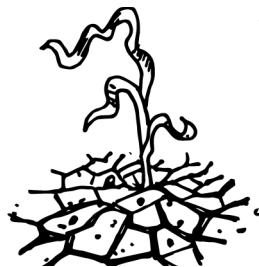
There is a time for pity, sparing, and mercy but that time was during the years of Jeremiah's warnings. If they continued to ignore the warnings then there was no hope for them.

Read Jeremiah 13:15-17.

What did they need to do while there was opportunity? V15 _____

What was Jeremiah to tell them when they asked what their sin was? (Jeremiah 16:11-12)

Unfortunately, they had sin engraved on their hearts instead of God's laws. There was no way to make them see their sin except by humbling them by taking away their land and their treasures, and making them serve the enemy in a foreign land. When they could no longer trust in man, then they could learn to trust in God.



What is a man whose heart turns away from God and makes flesh his strength really like? (Jeremiah 17:5-6)

In contrast, what is a man who places his trust in God like? (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

What is wrong with the heart? (Jeremiah 17:9)

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 17:10. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God can see what is in our hearts and minds.

* * *

Read Jeremiah 25:1-4.

For how many years had Jeremiah been rising early and speaking to the people? V3 _____

Had they listened? V4 _____

Read Jeremiah 25:5-7.

There is a little word in verse 5 that is used quite a bit in the book of Jeremiah. It is the word “turn”.

Look up this word in a concordance. Write down the Hebrew word and what it means.

What were they to turn away from? V5

When you are going one way, and then do a full turn, you will be facing the opposite way you were before. Stand up and look at what is in front of you, then turn around so that you are facing in the opposite direction. Think about this: What do you see now? Can you see what is behind you by continuing to face forward? What are you paying attention to?

The idea of this word is that we can either face away from God (towards evil) or face God (towards good). Turning to God is the means by which we turn away from evil and the way by which we can hear what He says. But it is something that we constantly have to choose to do. Instead you can picture the people of Judah, with their backs to God, ignoring what He has to say and doing and listening to things that will only bring about their own hurt.

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 25:5. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God wants us to be turned towards Him!

* * *

Read Jeremiah 25:8-14.

Who would God bring against the land? V9

What would be taken from the land? V10

How long would they serve the king of Babylon? V11

What would be the eventual fate of Judah's conqueror? V12

Although God was judging His people for their conduct, the rest of the world would not be left unjudged.

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 25:29. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God is the judge of the whole world.

* * *

Among all nations, who was God specifically judging with the sword? (Jeremiah 25:31)

When Jeremiah spoke all these words to the people, what did God promise He would do if they listened? (Jeremiah 26:3)

What would happen if they didn't listen? (Jeremiah 26:6)

As we mentioned earlier, the people of Judah could not believe that God would allow the Temple or the city of Jerusalem to be destroyed. They needed to learn that God is not attached to anything on earth. The temple, and the city could both be destroyed and God would still be God.



What did the people, the priests, and the prophets say should be done with Jeremiah at this point? (Jeremiah 26:8,9)

What did the elders remind them that Hezekiah had done when he heard things he didn't like? (Jeremiah 26:17-19)

Who supported Jeremiah? (Jeremiah 26:24)

something to think about:

Imagine you are Jeremiah: It must have been frustrating to be speaking to people for years who not only would not listen, but wouldn't even believe that his words came from God. They were even willing to kill him. However, he continued to do it. It must have been disappointing to know that he couldn't even pray for mercy for the people because there was no way they could avoid the trouble that was coming. Instead, all he could do was take his frustration and disappointment to God.

Would you stay and keep trying? Would you give up when it seems like there is no hope anyways?

Imagine you are the people: Jeremiah was telling them that all the things they trusted in as signs of them being God's chosen people (the temple, the city, their kingdom) would be destroyed. How could God be their God without them? Could they still be God's people without them?

Would you be willing to still trust in God when there is nothing else to trust in?

Read Jeremiah 18:1-4.

If you have never seen a potter's wheel and how it works, get an adult to find you a video for you to watch of a potter at work.

A potter does not always get it right the first time. Sometimes clay can have too much sand in it, or too little. It can be too wet or too dry. It can be inconsistent and have hard bits in it that make it difficult to shape.

If the shape is not working out, what can a potter do? V4



Read Jeremiah 18:5-10.

God says that He is like a potter working with clay.

If a piece of clay looks like it is not going to work out but then starts to take shape, will the Potter still destroy it? V8

Or what if a piece of clay is looking really good, but then suddenly collapses. Will the Potter decide to keep it anyway? V10

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 18:4. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God works with people like they are clay.
He allows people freedom to make choices that determine their future.

* * *

Read Jeremiah 18:11-17.

Judah was a piece of clay that was looking like a do-over. God was planning to mush them up and begin again. But they were being given a chance to cooperate.

What does God ask them to do? V11

How did they respond? V12

Judah was choosing their own individual futures: the consequences of their own self-willed foolishness. They were choosing to leave cold, pure water for muddy puddles. They were choosing to stumble along rough trails instead of walking on the road that would lead them safely.

What would be the result? V16-17

Read Jeremiah 18:18-23.

What do the men of Judah intend to do about Jeremiah's warning? V18

Who does Jeremiah ask God to listen to? V19

What does Jeremiah remind God that he has done for the people? V20

Does Jeremiah believe that God should forgive them? V21-23

It is not hard to understand why Jeremiah would feel the way he did about these people. He felt angry and frustrated that they would not listen and so he told God what He thought should be done to them, but he also left it up to God and continued to try to make the people understand how much they needed to change.

God makes it clear to the people what will happen to them if they continue on this course in the next story Jeremiah acts out.

Read Jeremiah 19:1-3.

What does Jeremiah take with him? V1

Who does Jeremiah take with him? V1

What had taken place in the valley of the son of Hinnom? (Jeremiah 7:31)

Read Jeremiah 19:4-9.

Terrible things had been done here that grieved God. Children are a gift FROM God, not something to be sacrificed to some worthless idol. Since they were willing to do such terrible things, they would face equally terrible things as a consequence.

What would the valley be called? V6

War is always brutal and cruel. There is nothing nice to be said about it. Life becomes disposable instead of valuable. People are killed without mercy, and a siege of the city would result in hunger so terrible people would do things they would have never imagined they could.

Read Jeremiah 19:10-13.



What does Jeremiah do with the bottle? V10

A bottle that has hardened can no longer be made into anything else, and once it is broken it cannot be made whole again.

What would the city become like? V12

Look up this word from V12 in a concordance. Write down what it means.

Read Jeremiah 19:14-15.

Where did Jeremiah go to speak to the people? V14 _____

What in this verse reminds you of the bottle that Jeremiah broke? V15

What happened to Jeremiah after he spoke these words? (Jeremiah 20:1-2)

Although Jeremiah was a faithful man, he did have times when he doubted what was true. He had been preaching violence and destruction for years, and yet violence and destruction had not taken place. The words from God were meant to call out a genuine repentance from the people, but instead they mocked him.

What had God's words become to him? (Jeremiah 20:8)

If he could be proven to be a false prophet, then by the law he could be put to death. The people were just waiting for him to say something they could use against him.

What did Jeremiah decide to do? (Jeremiah 20:9)

Why could he not do it? (Jeremiah 20:9)

But it was not a happy job to be the bearer of bad news all the time. Sometimes Jeremiah wished he had never been born.

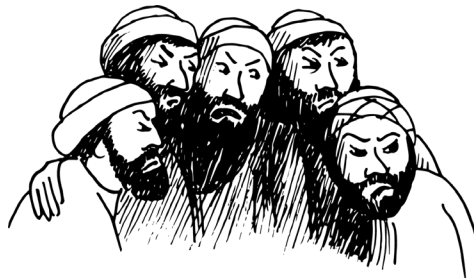
Jeremiah was not able to speak in the Temple anymore, so instead he had a friend Baruch write down his words and then read them to the people. When the princes heard about this, they took the scroll and sent Baruch off to hide with Jeremiah so they could inform the king of Jeremiah's words.

What did Jehoiakim do as the scroll was read to him? (Jeremiah 36:22-23)

What did Jeremiah do about the burned scroll? (Jeremiah 36:32)

something to think about:

Imagine you are Jeremiah: He had been the bearer of bad news for a long time now. It was wearing on him and he was tired of feeling like the bad guy all the time and being so unsuccessful at changing anyone. He found it hard to see the purpose sometimes and wished God would just do what He was threatening and get it over with, but Jeremiah's success was not in being able to persuade the people, but in the steadfastness with which he spoke God's words.



Do you think Jeremiah had a much better appreciation than we do for the unbelievable patience God has with us? He could easily wipe the earth clean and start over again, but He doesn't. How patient are you with the people around you?

Imagine you are the people: They are also tired of doom and gloom, and don't want to listen to anymore of it. But instead of doing the hard work of acknowledging their sin and turning away from it so they can be shaped into what God wants them to be, they harden their necks so that they might not hear.

It is hard for people to turn and repent. It means humbling ourselves to say that we are wrong. It is a good idea to practice this when you are young and your parents correct you. Instead of stomping away and slamming the door, ask yourself if they are right, and truly be sorry if they are.

We are not told exactly how Jehoiakim died, but there is a prophecy about his death.

What did God say would happen to him? (Jeremiah 22:18-19)

At this time, Jerusalem was surrounded by the army of Babylon. When Jehoiakim dies, the son of Jehoiakim is quickly made king.

How old was Jehoiachin, and how long did he reign? (2 Kings 24:8)

Jehoiachin did not attempt to continue his father's rebellion. He surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar.

Read 2 Kings 24:13-16.

Who did Nebuchadnezzar leave in Jerusalem? V14

Who did the king of Babylon make king in Jerusalem? (2 Kings 24:17)

Around this time Jeremiah was given a vision of two baskets. One contained very good figs, and the other very bad figs.

Who did the good figs represent? (Jeremiah 24:5)

What would happen to them? (Jeremiah 24:6-7)

Who did the bad figs represent? (Jeremiah 24:8)

What would happen to them? (Jeremiah 24:9)

Those being taken away into captivity would probably not see themselves as “good figs”, and those left in Jerusalem probably did not think of themselves as “bad figs”. In fact, it was probably the other way around since the people left behind still had the city, the temple, and a king. But the fact was that there was no group free of fault here. They all had to take responsibility for the way they as a nation had turned away from God.

Around this time Jeremiah wrote a letter to those taken captive into Babylon. They weren't to listen to the prophets telling them that the exile would soon be over. They weren't to cause

trouble in the land where they had been taken. They were to accept their lot.

How long would they be in Babylon? (Jeremiah 29:10)

Is it likely that anyone taken as a captive into Babylon, would themselves return to Jerusalem? _____

What did Jeremiah tell them to do? (Jeremiah 29:5-6)

What was their attitude to be towards their new home? (Jeremiah 29:7)

What kind of thoughts would God have towards them? (Jeremiah 29:11)

This verse is often used as encouragement, but it's important to remember that it did not mean an immediate end to anything bad, but they could trust that God's plans for them were good in the end and they could trust in this.

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 29:11. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God's plans are always for good, to give hope and a future.

* * *

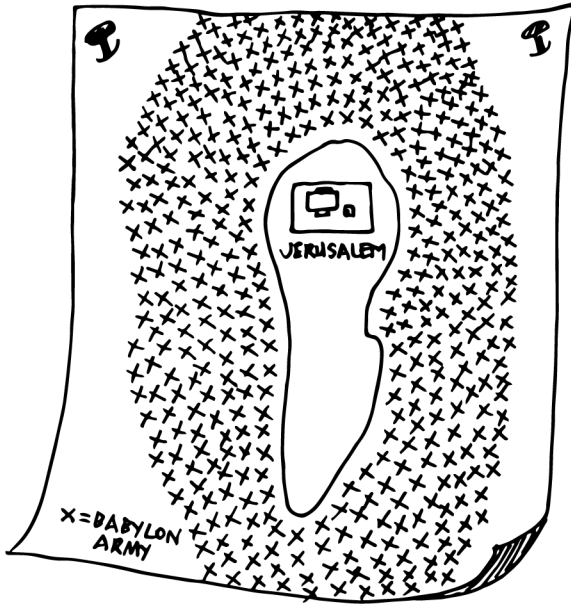
When would the people be certain to find God? (Jeremiah 29:13)

Read Jeremiah 37:1-5

Were the king and the people left behind any more willing to listen to the words of God? V2 _____

False prophets rose up to give the people false hopes that the power of Babylon would be soon broken and all the exiles and treasures of the temple would be brought home again. One of these was Hananiah.

When did Hananiah claim that this return would happen? (Jeremiah 28:3,4)



Jeremiah reminded him that many prophets before had prophesied of the evil that would come. Hananiah was promising something different. Jeremiah would love it to be true, but it wasn't. God had given all the nations to Nebuchadnezzar to serve him for now. Hananiah was making the people trust in a lie.

What happened to Hananiah two months later? (Jeremiah 28:17)

Eventually Zedekiah was persuaded by the princes to rebel against Babylon and put his trust in Egypt to help him. Consequently the vast army of Babylon was now at the gates of Jerusalem and Zedekiah wanted help.

What did Zedekiah want Jeremiah to do? V3

When the Babylonians left Jerusalem briefly to deal with Egypt, there was perhaps a feeling that God was protecting them again.

Read Jeremiah 37:6-10.



What disappointing news did Jeremiah share with them? V8

Read Jeremiah 37:11-17.

What did Jeremiah decide to do? V12

Why was he put in prison? V13-15

Who put him in prison? V15

Although Zedekiah left Jeremiah in the dungeon for many days, it seems that he was still concerned about what Jeremiah had to say.

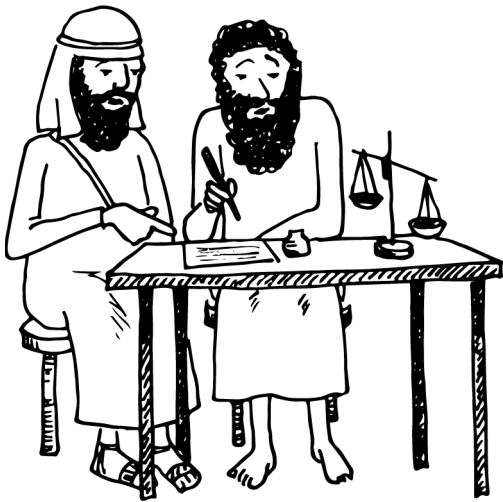
What was Jeremiah's word from the LORD? V17

Read Jeremiah 37:18-21.

Although Zedekiah didn't like what Jeremiah had to say, what Jeremiah had been saying for years had come to pass. There was no reason to believe that his words now were untrue.

Zedekiah was clearly a double-minded man. He couldn't make up his mind whether to listen to Jeremiah or his princes.

How does Zedekiah make sure Jeremiah stays alive? V21



While Jeremiah was in the court of the prison, his cousin dropped by who wished to give him the right of redemption for a piece of property in Anathoth. Probably there were many people trying to sell land and flee at this time. When fields and farms are of no value because there seems to be no hope, God tells Jeremiah to buy it.

What was done with the evidence of the purchase? (Jeremiah 32:14)

At a time when Jeremiah was telling the people that all would be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, this was a little spark of hope.

What did Jeremiah say that it meant? (Jeremiah 32:15)

Read through Jeremiah's prayer in Jeremiah 32:16-25.

What does Jeremiah say about what God can do? V17

What names does he address God with? V18

How does God judge every man? V19

He ends his prayer wondering why God has asked him to buy the piece of land. God answers Jeremiah that the city would be judged for the evil that had been done in it, but it is not the end of everything.

What does God say He will do? V37

What will He give them? V39

Although for now, the land would be given to the Chaldeans, and the people would be subject to great evil, God would also bring upon them all the good He had promised them. When things seem hopeless, God still has a plan for the future.

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 32:37-40. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God will never abandon His people.

* * *

Read Jeremiah 38:1-6.

With the Babylonian army surrounding the city, the situation was not very good inside. Food and water would have been running low, and the people would have been scared and miserable. Jeremiah was able to speak to them from the court of the prison.

What did he tell them to do? V2

What did the princes do with him? V6



Read Jeremiah 38:7-13.

Who rescued Jeremiah? V12 _____

It is not a fellow Jew who rescues Jeremiah, but a man from another country. This shows us how right God was to give His people into the hand of another nation. They were no longer able to act justly.

How is he rewarded for his kindness? (Jeremiah 39:16-18)

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 39:18. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God does notice and deliver those who trust in Him by showing kindness to others.

* * *

Zedekiah was in a very bad situation. His princes were men who had no care about the word of God. His country was poverty-stricken and the city surrounded, and he couldn't make up his mind what to do. He wanted to know what God had to say, but he was afraid to do it.

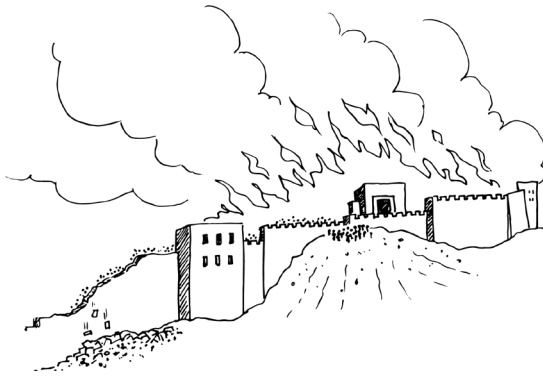
When Jeremiah tells him he must surrender if he wants to live and save the city, what does he say? (Jeremiah 38:19)

Read Jeremiah 39:1-7.

Unfortunately Zedekiah didn't surrender. Instead he tried to escape and was captured.

What happened to him? V6,7

Read Jeremiah 39:8-14.



And that seemed to be the end of the kingdom of Judah. The walls of Jerusalem were broken down, the buildings set on fire, and the army carried away those left in the city and all those who had surrendered.

Who were left in the land? V10

What had Nebuchadnezzar commanded regarding Jeremiah? V12

What choice was Jeremiah given? (Jeremiah 40:4)

Although it would be nice to think that this was Jeremiah's end, (living his last days in peace in the land that he loved), it didn't happen this way.

The Babylonians had set over them a governor named Gedaliah. When the Babylonians departed, Jews who had fled to the surrounding countries returned to Judah.

What did Gedaliah tell them? (Jeremiah 40:9)

These people were able to take over the abandoned vineyard and fields and gather a bountiful harvest. Things seemed to be going well. But they were still surrounded by enemies.

What is Gedaliah warned of? (Jeremiah 40:14)

Although Gedaliah didn't believe it, it was true and he was killed along with many others. The rest of the people left behind by the Babylonians were rounded up to be taken away to the Ammonites. Then Johanan and his forces attacked and rescued the people. But now everyone was afraid, afraid of their neighbours, afraid of the Babylonians. They came to Jeremiah and asked what they should do, promising to do it.

After ten days, Jeremiah came back to them with an answer.

What did he tell them to do? (Jeremiah 42:10)

Despite their promise to do whatever God said, Jeremiah was accused of being a false prophet, and they would not listen.

What did they decide to do? (Jeremiah 43:5-7)

In Egypt, they went back to worshipping other gods and refusing to hear the words of the LORD.

Why did they do this? (Jeremiah 44:16-18)

What would this mean for them? (Jeremiah 44:27-28)

We do not know what happened to Jeremiah after this. Presumably he died in Egypt. But the work of rooting up and tearing down had been accomplished and it was now time for planting and building. Oddly enough, the book of Jeremiah helped to do that for those in exile.

Why does God tell Jeremiah to write all these things in a book? (Jeremiah 30:2-3)

Write out the words God gives Jeremiah in Jeremiah 30:10-11.

Read Jeremiah 30:18-24.

Take a coloured pencil and underline verse 24.

This is a good verse to keep in mind when things are going on that you do not understand. It may not be until much later that you can understand what God is doing, or it may be the next generation who benefits from looking back on it.

God's anger is always for a purpose - a good purpose. It is often hard to see things clearly in the present. We are too close and too invested or familiar with what is going on around us. But when they looked back on the years of Jeremiah's prophesying, they would have been able to see what the problem was and why action needed to be taken - just like we can now. They would have been able to see that it was God's love, not His anger that caused their pain.

What kind of love does God have? (Jeremiah 31:3)

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 31:4. Write the following beside it in the margin:

When God tears down, He builds something better in its place.

* * *

Jeremiah speaks of God hearing the weeping of Rachel for her children that were no more. One of the most painful things in life is the loss of children and it doesn't matter in what way they are lost. But we can't think that God does not understand this loss. The truth is that it is His loss too. All of Israel was spoken of at times as His son - they were His children. It could have looked like this was the end to the people, but it wasn't, because God still loved them.

Why does He tell Rachel to stop weeping? (Jeremiah 31:16)

God's people could be lost if they focused on their present instead of their future. They had to believe in God's everlasting love and hold on to hope for the future.

What did they have to do in order to have a future? (Jeremiah 31:19)

Look up the word "repented" in this verse in a concordance. What does it mean?

Look up the word "instructed" in this verse in a concordance. What does it mean?

There is a solution to the sin that God found in His people. Early on in Jeremiah's preaching, God invited them to mend their ways and return to Him. But they would not. They were unable to see their sin. Their sin, rather than God's laws, were written on their heart with the point of a diamond.

God never gives up on people however. While He may discipline them (because He never lays aside His demand for faithfulness since that is the only way to real life), it will never last forever. But He must change their hearts.

What does God say He will do? (Jeremiah 31:33)

The people in exile did not need to fear that God had abandoned them. He never would.

* * *

Take a coloured pencil and underline Jeremiah 31:35-37. Write the following beside it in the margin:

God will never cast away His people.

* * *

We too have to trust in God's love. We have to believe that His ways are for our good! We have to write His laws on our hearts! And we have to do them! If we truly want Him as our God, then we have to be His people.