



The Bible Story: God Called Jeremiah Jeremiah 1

Jeremiah was a priest. One day, God told Jeremiah to talk to the people in Judah. God began giving messages to Jeremiah.

The first time God talked to Jeremiah, God said, "I knew you before I made you in your mama's belly. Before you were born, I picked you to do very special things. I picked you to be a prophet to the nations."

Being a prophet was a big job. Jeremiah would have to listen to what God said. Then he would travel to other places and tell people what God said.

Jeremiah said, "Oh no, God! I don't know how to talk in front of other people. I am too young for this job. I am just a boy."

God said, "Do not be afraid. I will be with you, and I will take care of you."

Then God touched Jeremiah's mouth. "I am giving you the words to say," God said.

God gave Jeremiah two visions. Visions are like dreams, except Jeremiah was awake. Instead of giving Jeremiah words, God showed him pictures. Jeremiah saw a branch of an almond tree. The almond branch showed that God would do what He said He would do, and He would do it soon.

In the second vision, Jeremiah saw a boiling pot. The pot was overflowing! It meant that trouble was coming for everyone who lived in Judah.

God told Jeremiah what was going to happen one day. He said that rulers were going to come and stay right outside of the city, Jerusalem. They would attack Jerusalem and other cities in Judah. This is how God was going to punish Judah for disobeying Him. The people in Judah had stopped loving God. Instead, they worshiped gods that were not real. God told Jeremiah that after he had punished the people of Judah He would help them and make them strong again.

God gave Jeremiah an important job. Jeremiah had a lot to do. God said to Jeremiah, "Get ready to go! Tell the people everything I say. Don't be afraid; I will make you strong. If other people fight you, you will win. I will take care of you and keep you safe."

Christ Connection: God chose Jeremiah before he was born to tell people what God said. God had also planned all along for His Son, Jesus, to show God's love for people by dying on the cross. Jesus rescues people from sin.

Say: God chose Jeremiah as His messenger. Jeremiah had to say some very hard things to Judah. He was afraid, but God promised to be with Jeremiah and give him the words to say

Ask the following review questions:

What job did God choose Jeremiah to do? *(be a prophet to the nations)*

Did Jeremiah think he would do a good job? *(No, he was young and did not know how to talk in front of other people.)*

What did God say He would do for the people of Judah after they were punished? *(He would help them and make them strong again.)*

What two things did Jeremiah see in his vision? *(an almond branch and a boiling pot)*



Crafts/Activities

Give Offering

Say: There are many ways we can worship Jesus. Collecting an offering is another way to worship Jesus. Each week you will have the opportunity to bring an offering to Jesus. God doesn't care if our gift is big or small. He wants us to give back with whatever we can. Every offering is important.

Print off and Complete Bible Story Coloring Page

Allow children to color the bible story coloring page using crayons, colored pencils or markers. Talk to them about the bible story as they color. Ask them to identify the people in the pictures. Finally, have them tell you the story using the coloring page as the teaching picture.

Print off and Complete Activity Page

Instruct preschoolers to find and circle Jeremiah.

Say: Did you spot Jeremiah? God called Jeremiah and gave him a special job to do. We will find out more about Jeremiah's special job in today's Bible story.

Play a safe version of "Red Rover"

Form two teams. The teams should line up shoulder-to-shoulder on either side of the room holding hands and facing the opposing team. The first team chooses a player from the other team and chants, "Red Rover, Red Rover, send [*child's name*] right over!" Then drop their hands to their sides. That child then runs to a spot between two people on that team and stands between them. He joins their line, and the team joins hands again. Teams take turns calling a child over. Play until each child has been called. *Make sure children do not try and break through the line.

Say: How did it feel when the other team called out for you to come over? In today's Bible story, God called Jeremiah. God chose Jeremiah for a very important job. Listen to the Bible story to find out what Jeremiah's job was.