

Life Focus

I can learn from God's Word ways to love others.

Who?

Jeremiah, Baruch, King Jehoiakim.

What?

Jeremiah wrote God's words to warn the people to obey God. (Jeremiah 36)

When & Where?

In the year 605 B.C. when Jehoiakim was king over Judah, the southern kingdom, after the northern kingdom was conquered.

Why?

To help children know ways of learning to obey God's Word.

Bible Verse

"I will obey God's word."
(See Psalm 119:17)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 ACT OUT what Jeremiah did to help others learn about God's Word;
- 2 IDENTIFY ways of learning to obey God's Word;
- 3 Obey God's Word in class.

Teaching Tip

Capitalise on children's love for music by singing simple songs relating to the theme. You can even make up an easy tune for the Bible verse. Use nursery rhymes as the basis, and adapt to fit the words.

Jeremiah Obeyes



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, large balloons or balls, one for every two children.

DO

Children form pairs. Give each pair a balloon. Children in each pair help each other hold the balloon without using hands (using heads, shoulders, sides, stomachs, legs, backs, etc.). Invite pairs to try walking with the balloons.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story, we'll hear about Jeremiah and his helper, Baruch (buh-ROOK). Jeremiah wanted to help others learn to obey God's Word. Baruch helped Jeremiah write God's Word. We can help each other in our game.
- The Bible says, "I will obey God's word." We read God's word in the Bible. When we learn about Bible stories and verses, we learn ways to obey God.
- Debbie, when do you hear Bible stories and verses? Who helps you learn about God's Word?
- Naledi, you and John are helping each other carry the balloon. You are helpers just like Jeremiah and Baruch were. And you are obeying God's Word by helping each other.

Bible Verse Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, roll of brown paper, 1 m length of wool, khokis.

PREPARE

Roll up brown paper and tie it to make a giant scroll.

DO

Invite children to help you unroll the scroll and place it on a table. Children draw pictures of themselves and write their names on the scroll (assist where needed). Write "I will obey God's word" on the scroll. At the end of the activity, roll up and tie the scroll again.



TALK ABOUT

- Open your Bible to Psalm 119:17. The Bible says, "I will obey God's word." In Bible times, God's Word was written on scrolls. A scroll was a long piece of paper with writing on it. The scroll was rolled up. Today we can read God's Word in our Bibles.
- Natasha, when do you hear stories from God's Word? I'm glad your granny helps you to learn God's Word.
- When we listen to God's Word, we learn ways to obey God. Pray, Dear God, help us to listen to and obey Your word, Amen.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, pens in different colours, paper.

BIBLE VERSE

Open your Bible to Psalm 119:17. **The Bible says, "I will obey God's word."** Repeat the Bible verse with children several times leading them to do the actions for the phrases: "I" (point to self), "**will obey**" (nod head), "**God's word**" (open hands to show book).

PRAYER

Dear God, we love You and want to obey Your Word. Please help us every day to obey You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Jeremiah Obeys

Jeremiah 36

INTRODUCTION

Invite volunteers to take turns writing letters or drawing lines or circles on paper with pens in a variety of colours. **Listen to hear what happened when a man obeyed God and wrote God's words.**

JEREMIAH OBEYS

Jeremiah was a man who loved and obeyed God. One of the ways in which Jeremiah obeyed God was by telling people messages from God. Jeremiah was called a prophet.

Jeremiah told the people God's message that they should love and obey God. But the people did not love God. They did not want to obey Him.

God still loved the people. He wanted them to stop doing what was wrong. He knew that very bad things would happen if they kept doing wrong. So God told Jeremiah to write down God's very important words.

Jeremiah called his helper, Baruch (buh-ROOK). Jeremiah said the messages from God out loud. Baruch wrote the messages down on a scroll. (A scroll is like a long rolled-up sheet of paper with writing on it.)

THE KING DOES NOT OBEY

"Take the scroll to the Temple and read it to the people," Jeremiah told Baruch. The Temple was the place where God's people came to pray and learn about God.

Baruch took the scroll to God's Temple. He read it in a loud, clear voice. Some people went to King Jehoiakim (juh-HOY-uh-kuhm) and told him about the scroll.

The king ordered one of his helpers to bring the scroll to him. One of the king's helpers read it to him. But the king did not want to stop doing wrong things. The king did not want to start obeying God's words.

The king was angry about what God's words said! The king grabbed a knife. He cut the scroll apart. He burned each piece in the fire!

The king may have thought he had got rid of God's words. But God told Jeremiah, "Write the scroll again." Jeremiah and Baruch obeyed God. They wrote another scroll just like the first one.

THE PEOPLE DO NOT OBEY

Baruch read the scroll to the people again. But the king and the people did not listen. They kept doing what was wrong, so the bad things God said would happen, did happen.

CONCLUSION

Jeremiah obeyed God by helping others learn about God's Word. We can learn about God's Word. Learning about God's Word helps us know how to obey God. Our Bible says, "I will obey God's Word."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Scroll

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 29* and 20 cm length of wool for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors, tape; optional - craft sticks, glue.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "I will obey God's word."** **Hearing Bible stories and verses is one way we learn to obey God's Word.** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed. (Optional: Children glue craft sticks to ends of their scrolls and roll scrolls on sticks.)

TALK ABOUT

- **What did Jeremiah do to obey God?**
- **Who helped Jeremiah?**
- **The Bible say, " I will obey God's word." Jeremiah obeyed what God said to do. We can obey what God tells us to do, too. We can find out ways to obey God by reading and listening to God's Word, the Bible.**
- *Jaco*, **what is one way you learn about God's Word? Who helps you read Bible stories?**
- *Nokuthula*, **you helped Casey find a crayon. You obeyed God's Word by being a helper. What is another way we can help each other in our class today?**

TEACHING TIP

Help children roll and tie their scrolls with wool.