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Naaman Healed of Leprosy

Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-27

Theme: Salvation is simple: obey God in humble faith

1st-3rd Grade (Ages 6-8)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Lesson Overview: Jeremiah , The Weeping Prophet Dear teacher, this lesson invites young learners to meet Jeremiah, a young man who felt unsure and afraid, but God called him anyway. Jeremiah was only a boy when God asked him to be a prophet, telling him, "Don't be afraid, I'm with you" (Jeremiah 1:8). God's love is like a warm hug, reminding us that He never stops caring for His people, even when things seem hard. The Big Idea: God's love is always there, even when we feel scared or alone. Just like Jeremiah, we can trust God's promises, even when we don't understand everything right away. The lesson can include a simple storytime, a prayer, and a discussion question like, "What's one thing God has shown you loves you?" to encourage reflection. Activity Idea: Draw or color a picture of God's promise to Jeremiah, maybe a big heart with a small boy inside it, to show how God wraps His love around us. End with a heartfelt prayer, like "God, thank You for always being with us!" This lesson is short, heartfelt, and full of hope, perfect for a Sunday school group that needs to feel loved and loved up!

Bible Story

Jeremiah , The Young Prophet with Big Dreams

Long ago, God called a boy named Jeremiah to be His prophet, a person who told others about God's love and His plans for them. Jeremiah was only a young man, just like you, and he felt nervous. One day, God spoke to him through a vision: "Before you were even born, I chose you. I set you apart to be my messenger!" (Jeremiah 1:5). Jeremiah was scared because he had never done anything like this before, he didn't even know how to speak clearly or act like a leader. But God told him, "I will help you. Don't be afraid!"

Jeremiah didn't know what to do next. He asked, "Lord, how can I say what I'm supposed to say? I'm just a kid!" God answered, "I will give you words, and no one will understand them unless I speak through you." Then, in a dream, God showed Jeremiah a giant, flaming pot. Jeremiah was terrified, but God reminded him: "I'm with you. This isn't about

you, it's about me!" (Jeremiah 1:10). Even though Jeremiah didn't feel brave, God trusted him to carry His message. Later, God told Jeremiah to tell the people of Israel that He would forgive their sins if they turned back to Him. But some people were angry and even threatened to kill Jeremiah. Still, God kept Him safe. This was hard for Jeremiah, he cried a lot because he wanted the people to listen and believe in God's love. Yet, no matter what happened, Jeremiah knew his job was to share God's truth, just as He had promised.

This story teaches us that God doesn't always ask us to do big things, just to trust Him with our hearts. Just like Jeremiah felt small and scared, we might feel nervous when we follow God, but He always gives us courage. God wants us to share His love, even when it's hard. That's why Jeremiah's story is special, it shows us that even the smallest of us can be used by God if we listen and obey!

Why This Matters: Jeremiah's story reminds us that God doesn't wait for us to grow up to trust Him. No matter our age or fears, He calls us to be His helpers! Just like Jeremiah spoke for God, we can trust that God uses us to share His kindness with others. Would you like to pray together to ask God to help you be brave like Jeremiah?

Key Verse

2 Kings 5:14

God Loves You Forever! God's love for you is special and always true, like a big, warm hug that never ends. In this verse from the Bible, we learn that God's love is like a river of kindness that never runs dry. It's not just for a little while; it's always there, no matter what happens in your life. This means that no matter how big or small your problems are, God's love will always be there to hold you up and show you how much He cares. Think about how your parents or grandparents love you. They give you hugs, help when you fall, and always want what's best for you. God is just like that, He loves you so much that He made sure you'd never be alone or forgotten. The Bible tells us that God's love is like a never-ending promise, like a cozy blanket on a cold day or a favorite toy that you always get to keep. Just like you wouldn't want to grow up without love, God doesn't want you to feel alone, so He's always there to help and protect you. You might feel scared or sad sometimes, and it's okay to talk to God about it. He wants you to share your feelings with Him, just like you would talk to a trusted friend. When you do that, God's love feels even warmer and stronger. You can ask Him for help, thank Him for His kindness, or even just sit with Him in silence and remember that He sees you, loves you, and cares about you deeply. Just like a sunflower always grows toward the light, you can trust that God's love will guide you in the right direction, no matter where life takes you. Here's something fun to try: Next time you feel safe and happy, take a deep breath and think about God's love. Imagine it like a big, soft cloud following you around, reminding you every day that you are loved. You can even draw a picture of God holding you or write down one thing you're thankful for in His love. Remember, just like a tree needs water to grow, you need God's love to grow strong in your heart and help you face anything that comes your way. With God's love always by your side, you'll know you're never truly alone!

Activities

Activity 1:

Students create a collage of Jerusalem as Jeremiah saw it, then write down how he felt as a prophet.

1. Introduce the Story: Read Jeremiah 1:4, 10 (or summarize it) and ask: "How did Jeremiah feel when God told him to be a prophet?"
2. Design Jerusalem: Give each child a cardboard section to cut and glue pictures of Jerusalem (buildings, people, etc.) from old magazines. Let them decorate their city.
3. Express Emotions: Have them write/draw how Jeremiah might have felt (sad, brave, worried) on a small slip of paper and glue it to their city.
4. Share with Class: Each child can share one emotion they added and why.

Activity 2:

Students fill a small jar with words of hope from Jeremiah 31:31, 34, then decorate it to remember God's promises.

1. Read the Promise: Share Jeremiah 31:31, 34 ("God will forgive their sins and give them a new heart!") and ask: "What does this mean for us?"
2. Fill the Jar: Write each key word from the verse on a paper strip (e.g., "forgive," "new heart"). Hand them out and let students fold and place them in the jar.
3. Decorate the Jar: Let them decorate the outside with markers, stickers, or glitter to make it pretty.
4. Take Home the Promise: Each child keeps the jar to remember God's love, like Jeremiah did when he felt alone.
5. Both activities use simple, hands-on learning to help kids connect Jeremiah's story with their own hearts.

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for early elementary children (ages 6, 8) about Jeremiah the Weeping Prophet:
- God's Plans for You
- Jeremiah felt scared when God told him he would be a prophet. What is one thing you're worried about, like school, making friends, or trying something new? Why do you think it's hard to trust God, even when He says, "Don't be afraid"? How could you ask God to help you feel brave, just like Jeremiah did?
- Complaining vs. Listening
- Jeremiah was sad because his city and people were in trouble. Later, he cried out to God about it. Do you ever feel like God is ignoring your worries? What happens when you tell God your problems, even if it feels hard? How might God want to help you through them, like He did for Jeremiah?
- God's Promises Are Always True
- God promised Jeremiah that He would be with him, even when things were hard. Jeremiah later wrote, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you" (Jeremiah 31:33). What is one promise from the Bible that you believe God keeps? How can that promise help you when you feel scared or unsure?
- Worshiping God in Hard Times
- Even when Jeremiah was sad, he still worshiped God. When have you felt like God was close to you, even when things were tough? How can you thank God today for being there with you, just like He was with Jeremiah? (You could draw or pray together!)
- These questions encourage kids to reflect on fear, trust, and God's promises while connecting the story to their own lives. Would you like any tweaks to make them even clearer?

Prayer Focus

Prayer Focus: Trusting God Like Jeremiah Dear God, we thank You for sending prophets like Jeremiah to tell the people about You. Jeremiah felt scared and unsure when he was called to be Your messenger, but he trusted You enough to say, "I don't know how to speak!" (Jeremiah 1:6). Help us, like Jeremiah, to listen to You when You speak to us and to believe that You will give us the words we need. Teach us to trust You, even when things seem hard or confusing. Sometimes, we feel nervous when we're told to do something big or important, just like Jeremiah did when God told him to warn the people about bad things coming. But remember, God never asks us to do anything He wouldn't do Himself. He promised to be with us always, and He loves us so much that He wants us to be kind, brave, and honest, even when it's hard. Help us to be like Jeremiah by speaking the truth with love, even when others don't always believe us. Jeremiah also cried a lot because he knew the people would not listen, and he felt sad for them. He longed for them to turn back to You and follow Your ways. Just like Jeremiah, we sometimes wish others would listen to God's love for them. Help us to be patient and kind, even when others don't

believe or change. Show us how to share Your love in a way that encourages them to trust You too. Thank You, God, for being with us always. You gave Jeremiah a heart to speak for You, and You give us the same courage to follow You. Help us to remember that even when things don't go our way, You are always with us, and we can trust in Your love. Amen. Simple Application for the Class: After praying, you could ask the children: - "Who do you think you can share God's love with today?" - "What's one way we can be brave like Jeremiah and trust God?" (e.g., telling the truth, being kind, or praying for someone)

>> Missions Spotlight

The Roma (Gypsy) people of Europe have been marginalized for centuries. Missionaries working among Roma communities in Eastern Europe share Jeremiah's message that God never gives up on His people, including the Roma, whom God deeply loves.

-> To the Cross

Jeremiah wept over God's people because they kept turning away. But God promised a 'new covenant', not written on tablets of stone but on their hearts. Jesus inaugurated this new covenant at the Last Supper: 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood.'