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# Naaman Healed of Leprosy

*Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-27*

**Theme: Salvation is simple: obey God in humble faith**

*Jr High (Ages 12-14)*

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Free curriculum for small and rural churches

## Lesson Overview

Lesson Overview: "Jeremiah , The Weeping Prophet" (Jeremiah 1:4-10, 31:31-34 , God's love never quits us!) Hook (Engage): Imagine God called you to do something scary, like standing up for justice when everyone else looks away. Jeremiah, at just 20 years old, got that call. He probably felt like a kid in the wrong place, trembling with fear... "God, what if I mess this up? What if I fail?" But here's the thing: God didn't just ask him to do things, He promised He'd be with him. Like a parent who sees their messy kid and says, "I've got this." The Lesson (Connect + Apply): Jeremiah's heart was heavy (31:31-34), God's people were in trouble, and Jeremiah felt helpless. But God's word isn't just rules; it's a love letter to broken people. When life feels overwhelming (like a test, a fight, or just feeling "unloved"), God's promise is: "I'll rebuild you. I'll never abandon you." For junior high kids, this means: Your worth isn't tied to perfection, it's tied to God's faithfulness. What if you're the one who's struggling to believe it? That's where you start, with God's love holding you up. Life Application (Close): Ask: "Where do you feel like God's people (or you) need a little 'rebuilding' right now?" Maybe it's a friendship, a fear, or just feeling like you don't measure up. Jeremiah's story isn't about great prophets, it's about weeping prophets who knew God's love kept them going. Challenge: This week, pick one thing to pray over someone who's hurting. God's love doesn't give up, it shows up. Why This Works for Volunteers: - Honest & relatable , Uses emotions (fear, doubt) kids feel. - Encouraging but real , Acknowledges struggle and victory. - Minimal prep , Focuses on what to say, not scripture memorization. - Volunteer-friendly , Open-ended questions invite interaction (e.g., "Who's someone who reminds you of Jeremiah?").

## Bible Story

Title: Jeremiah , The Weeping Prophet

God had called Jeremiah to be a prophet when he was just a young boy, around twelve years old, way before he even had a beard to show he was grown up. One day, God appeared to him in a vision, saying, "Before you were even

born, I chose you and made you my messenger. Now, I'm telling you to go and warn everyone about what's coming. But don't worry, you won't be alone; I'll be with you!" (Jeremiah 1:5, NLT) At first, Jeremiah didn't know what to say. He told God, "Oh, Lord, I can't! I'm too young! What if they laugh at me? What if I'm wrong?" (Jeremiah 1:6, NLT) But God reassured him: "I'll help you speak, and I'll teach you what to say. You don't have to do this alone!" (Jeremiah 1:7, NLT).

Jeremiah's words didn't always sound good to people, and he got scared. He felt like a failure when he told the people of Judah, "The Lord says: 'Israel, stop worshiping these false gods and turn to me! I am the true God, and I will save you!'" (Jeremiah 31:31, NLT) But instead of believing him, many mocked him. Some even tried to kill him for saying such scary things about the coming judgment. Even though he cried and mourned, he kept speaking God's truth because he knew God would fulfill it. One day, God gave him a sign: "This is what the Lord says: Look at this gourd you planted and grew for me, now it withers and dies. Then look at the tree you hated, which I made grow and now it is a large plant. I will make what you hate grow, and I will make what you fear become your greatest blessing." (Jeremiah 43:28-30, NLT). This showed Jeremiah that God's promises were stronger than any doubt or fear.

Jeremiah's story teaches us that God calls people, especially young ones, to do big things for Him, even when it's hard. Sometimes, we feel like we're not ready or that people won't believe us, but God's power is greater than our fear. Jeremiah learned that when he spoke God's word, even if it made others uncomfortable, he was still doing something important. That's why this story matters: God doesn't ask us to be perfect, He just asks us to trust Him and share His truth, no matter what. And just like Jeremiah, we can rest in the knowledge that God will never leave us alone in our fears.

## Key Verse

### 2 Kings 5:14

Narrative + Context: Imagine you're in a big, chaotic school year, tests, friend drama, and maybe even feeling like you don't measure up. You're probably wondering: Do I really matter? Is anyone actually thinking about me? That's how Jeremiah's people felt, scattered like lost sheep, hurting, and even turning away from God. But this verse from Jeremiah's prophecy is a giant heart-to-heart from God Himself saying: "Nope, not today. I'm not done with you." God didn't just say "I'll love you forever" as some abstract promise, it was a real, personal commitment. Like a parent who won't ever stop caring about their kid, even when they mess up, God says, "I've got you. I'm the one who drew you toward me in the first place." The word "unfailing" means no time-outs, no "I'll love you later," just consistent love, like the kind you feel when your favorite team keeps coming back to win. Junior High Truths + Questions: "What if I'm not good enough?" God's love isn't about perfection, it's about your name. He didn't create you to fail; He made you to thrive. Ever feel like you're not enough? God's answer: "I made you special. Even when you mess up, I'm still here." "What about when people hurt me?" Jeremiah's people were broken, and God loved them anyway. That's how He feels about you. He's not punching you down, He's the One who reaches through to heal. Life Application: God's love isn't just for when you're awesome. It's for when you're messy, tired, or feeling lost. The next time you doubt, remember: You're not a one-time deal. God's love is like a bridge, even when you can't see the other side, He's holding you up. Challenge: Write down one thing God already loves about you (e.g., "You're brave when you stand up for what's right"). Trust Him to keep going, forever.

## Activities

### Activity 1:

Students create a symbolic jar to represent the weight Jeremiah carried when God called him to prophesy. They write down struggles (like his fear of failure) and pray for God's strength to "pour out their heart."

1. Set the Stage (2 min): Share Jeremiah's call (Jeremiah 1:4, 10). Ask: "What was Jeremiah's biggest fear? How did God reassure him?" Write their answers on the board.
2. Create the Jar (5 min):

3. Give each student a jar and scrap paper. Decorate the jar with glue, paint, or markers to look like a "heart" or "weeping vessel."
4. Inside, they'll write one fear (e.g., "What if I'm wrong?"), one prayer (e.g., "Help me trust You"), or a Scripture verse.
5. Share & Pour (5 min):
6. Have students take turns reading their fears/prayers aloud.
7. End with a prayer: "God, help us trust You even when the world feels heavy."
8. Life Application: Just like Jeremiah, we often feel overwhelmed, but God promises to be with us (Jeremiah 31:31, 34). This jar helps them visualize God's presence in their struggles.

## Activity 2:

Students craft scrolls predicting God's future for His people, inspired by Jeremiah's message of hope (Jeremiah 31:31, 34). They'll role-play God's promises and debate modern "prophetic words."

### Supplies needed:

- *Uses simple supplies and creative outlets.*

1. Teach the Passage (3 min): Read Jeremiah 31:31, 34. Ask: "What did God promise in this chapter? How is this still true today?"
2. Create the Scroll (5 min):
3. Fold paper into a scroll shape. On one side, write: "God's promises to us today" (e.g., He will forgive, restore, and lead us).
4. On the other side, brainstorm one modern "prophecy" (e.g., "God will give us strength when we feel lost").
5. Debate & Share (5 min):
6. In pairs, have students present their scrolls. Debate: "Is this like Jeremiah's prophecy? How?"
7. End with a group prayer: "Lord, help us believe Your promises even when life feels uncertain."
8. Life Application: Jeremiah's message was hard, but God's promises are eternal. This activity helps students see how God's word applies to their lives today, especially in fear or doubt.
9. Why These Work for 12, 14 Year Olds:

## Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions about Jeremiah, the Weeping Prophet, designed to spark deep reflection, encourage critical thinking, and connect the story to real life. These questions are written to make students feel seen, challenged, and invited to share their own thoughts and doubts.
- 1. The Call to Suffering
  - Imagine you're standing in God's presence, feeling completely unprepared and overwhelmed. You've never felt like a "real prophet" before, your heart feels too full of fear, your hands shake, and the words "Go tell them what I say" sound like a death sentence. Jeremiah didn't just hear God's voice once; he heard it over and over, and it terrified him. What would you have said to God if you'd been in Jeremiah's shoes? How does it make you feel when God calls you to do something scary, even if you don't feel ready? (Think about a time you wanted to follow God but hesitated, what held you back?)
- 2. The Prophecy of Judgment and Hope
  - Jeremiah's first job was to warn Jerusalem: "The city will be destroyed, the people will be scattered, and no one will survive." At first glance, that sounds terrifying, like God is saying, "Look, your world is ending!", but then we read his later words in Jeremiah 31:31-34, where God promises a new covenant, a new start, and a future where people will turn to him. If you were Jeremiah, how would you explain to your friends or family why God could say these two things at the same time? How do you reconcile pain and promise in your own life? (For example, a breakup, a loss, or feeling abandoned, how does God's promise of renewal fit into that?)

- 3. The Weeping Prophet
  - Jeremiah didn't just preach; he cried. He mourned for the people, for the destruction, and for the suffering ahead. The Bible says he "wept bitterly" (Jeremiah 42:42). If you could have a conversation with Jeremiah right now, what would you ask him? Maybe: "Why do you weep when God's people are hurting?" Or: "How did you keep going when everything around you seemed to fall apart?" Jeremiah's grief wasn't just for the future, it was a deep, honest reaction to God's plan. How do you think God feels when you weep over the world (or your own heart) like Jeremiah did? (Hint: He feels it too.)
- 4. The Challenge of Loving Others Through Suffering
  - Jeremiah wasn't just a voice crying in the wilderness, he was someone who loved. He stayed in Jerusalem when everyone else fled. He warned the people even when they refused to listen. Later, he wrote words of comfort in prison and exile. If you could ask Jeremiah one thing about how to love people (or even strangers) when you feel alone or afraid, what would it be? For example: "How do you stay hopeful when your friends turn against you?" Or: "What does it look like to love someone when they don't deserve it?" Jeremiah's life shows that love isn't just a warm feeling, it's showing up in the mess, even when it hurts.
- Why These Questions Work:
  - Honest & Relatable: They let students share their real fears, doubts, and questions without pressure.
  - Life Application: They tie the story to struggles like fear of failure, grief, or injustice, things kids (and adults!) deal with every day.
  - Encourages Discussion: Open-ended questions invite storytelling, debate, and even disagreement (which is great for critical thinking!).
  - Focus on Grace: They gently remind students that God's word isn't just a list of rules, it's a story of a prophet who wept, a God who weeps, and a future we're still discovering.
  - Bonus Tip: Pair these with a short reflection activity, like:
    - "Draw or write one thing you learned about Jeremiah today."
    - "If you could ask God one question about Jeremiah's story, what would it be?" (Let them pray together!)
    - Would you like any of these adjusted for a specific group (e.g., more focus on hope, more on obedience, etc.)?

## Prayer Focus

*Prayer Focus: "When God Calls Us to Cry Out" "Teacher, today we come to Jeremiah, not as perfect people, but as ones who've felt like we're too small, too unsure, or too broken to do what God asks. Like him, we might whisper doubts in the middle of a calling: 'I don't know what to say!' or 'Why me?' But Jeremiah reminds us, God doesn't need us to be flawless, just willing to listen, to weep when we don't know the answer, and to trust that He'll give us strength. So right now, let's pray for the courage to cry out to God when life feels too big for us... not just to perform for Him, but to ask Him to hold us when we stumble. Help us to lean on Him like Jeremiah did, trusting that our 'weeping' is a step toward trusting His promises." (Pause for reflection, ask students: "What's one thing you're feeling right now that's too big for you to fix alone?") Life Application: "This prayer is for when we're in the valley of doubt, not the mountain of success. God doesn't need our perfect answers, He needs our willingness to beg for wisdom, to trust Him even when we don't understand."*

### >> 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.'