

LESSON 11

PROPHET JEREMIAH

OBJECTIVES

1. To know that God formed me before I was born and that I belong to Him.
2. To understand that God has set me apart, so I need to be holy, blameless.
3. To realize that God has given me a calling in life that I will need to respond to without fear.

MEMORY VERSE

"But the Lord said to me: 'Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.'"

(Jeremiah 1:7)

PRAYER

Thank You, God, for guiding us through the past week so that we can come to church to worship You and to have fellowship with our brothers and sisters. May You continue to strengthen us so that we can face trials and resist temptations in our daily life.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery and Spiritual Teaching

- A. God Calls Jeremiah
- B. Pagan Worship
- C. Jeremiah's Main Message
- D. Jeremiah Witnesses the Destruction
- E. The Suffering of Jeremiah
- F. Jeremiah's Relationship with God
- G. Conclusion

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Spirit

3. Life Application

- a. I Belong to Him. I Am Set Apart.
- b. Every Christian Has a Calling!

4. Activity—Evangelical Fliers



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah candidly reveals his inner turmoil concerning his call to prophetic ministry. Indeed, the prophet's anguish over the message of judgment upon his people and the coming destruction of the land was at times overwhelming (4:19–22). Yet despite his anguish, Jeremiah fulfilled his ministry of proclaiming God's judgment against the people of Judah for their idolatry, their unfaithfulness to the covenant, and their obstinate disobedience of His will. Long acknowledged as one of the great prophets of the Old Testament, Jeremiah serves to this day as an example of someone who remained faithful to the word of God despite countless hardships.

Author and Date

Jeremiah was born in Anathoth, just three miles northeast of Jerusalem in the hill country of Benjamin. His father was Hilkiyah. Jeremiah's ministry extended from 626 to 586 B.C., making him a contemporary of Zephaniah, Ezekiel, and Habakkuk. The prophet's writing ministry began in the fourth year of Jehoiakim's reign in 605 B.C., though portions of the book may have been written earlier. The book was completed sometime after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

Historical Background

Jeremiah's ministry covered a very critical time in the history of the ancient Middle East. When Josiah king of Judah died at the hands of the Egyptian army, Judah became subject to Egypt and its ruler Pharaoh Necho. The

people of Judah chose Jehoahaz to succeed Josiah. However, three months later, Necho appointed Jehoiakim (Eliakim) to rule as his vassal on the throne in Jerusalem. Having lost their freedom, the people of Judah turned not to God but to the idols they had worshipped in the days of Manasseh and Amon. This idolatry was the reason for Jeremiah's proclamations of God's judgment. In 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar defeated Pharaoh Necho at Carchemish, and Jehoiakim immediately submitted to the Babylonian king, who permitted him to remain on the throne as a vassal. Three years later, Jehoiakim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and was deposed (2 Ki 24:1-2). Jehoiachin replaced Jehoiakim on the throne for a short time, but Nebuchadnezzar then exiled him to Babylon. Thousands of political and religious leaders were carried to Babylon with Jehoiachin in 597 B.C. (2 Ki 24:14-16). Nebuchadnezzar made Jehoiakim's brother Zedekiah the new ruler of Judah. In 589 B.C., Zedekiah led a rebellion against Babylon, and Nebuchadnezzar's reprisal was swift. His army entered Judah and destroyed all resisting fortified settlements. Nebuchadnezzar's army turned aside from besieging Jerusalem when the Egyptian army appeared in southwest Palestine in the summer of 588 B.C. But the Egyptians soon withdrew, and Nebuchadnezzar resumed his siege. Several times during the siege of Jerusalem, Zedekiah came to Jeremiah for counsel from the Lord. The prophet advised him to surrender, but Zedekiah would not listen. Jerusalem's walls were breached in the fourth month of 586 B.C. One month later, the temple was burned, along with the palaces, houses, and other administrative buildings. An additional 4,600 Jerusalemites were deported to Babylon. Gedaliah was appointed governor of Judah at Riblah. Jeremiah, who had been imprisoned by Zedekiah, was released and sent to serve under Gedaliah. Gedaliah was assassinated and his supporters fled to Egypt, fearful of Nebuchadnezzar's revenge. Jeremiah went with them to Egypt against his will, and there he continued to confront the Jews for their idolatry and unfaithfulness.



Reaching Out to Your Students

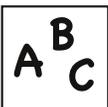
The goal of this class is to lead students to understand that we are God's vessels to do His work. Students may feel discouraged or less confident when facing challenges from school, friends, or even conflicts of faith. Therefore, we can share appropriate life testimonies and also the word of the Bible to encourage them. In addition, emphasize to the students the importance of praying for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, as it is the origin of true strength and wisdom, which can help us overcome our obstacles.



Opener

5 Minutes

Last week, we learned about prophet Isaiah. How long did Isaiah serve as a prophet of God? (Around sixty years.) He served God for many years, continuously warning the people of Judah. Once, when Jerusalem was under the siege of the Assyrians, prophet Isaiah prayed for Jerusalem. That night, the angel of the Lord went out and brought death to 185,000 of the Assyrian troops, saving Jerusalem from destruction.



Vocabulary

courage: the strength to do something that scares you or that others don't dare to do



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Pass out the Bible Discovery worksheet. Answers are in bold and underlined. Pause to allow students to complete. Keep a copy of the worksheet for reference.

God Calls Jeremiah

Prophet Jeremiah was born into and grew up in a priestly

family. His father was the high priest Hilkiah, and his family lived in the town of Anathoth in Benjamin, close to Jerusalem. Since young, Jeremiah learned from his father methods of worshipping God in the temple and attended many services, as he was to carry on his father's priestly duties when he became older.

In the 13th year of King Josiah of Judah (ca. 627 B.C.), God called Jeremiah to serve as a prophet. How did God

call Jeremiah? What was Jeremiah's response to God's call? Let's turn to Jeremiah 1:4-9.

⁴Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:
⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I **knew** you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a **prophet** to the nations." ⁶Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a **youth**." ⁷But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸Do not be **afraid** of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord. ⁹Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My **words** in your mouth."

What can we learn from this passage? From verse 5, God had already set Jeremiah apart as a prophet before he was born. God did wonderful things for Jeremiah. He knew him. He formed him. He set him apart and appointed him as a prophet to the nations. He did all this long before Jeremiah came out of his mother's womb!

Because God called Jeremiah, God wanted him to take His words to all Israel and to the nations. God had appointed Jeremiah to proclaim the destruction and building of nations as well.

As recorded in Jeremiah 1:8-9, the Lord reached out His hand, touched Jeremiah's mouth, and said, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth." God also told Jeremiah that even though the people would attack him because of the words he would say, God would always remain with him and help him at all times.

How Many Kings Did Jeremiah Serve?

He served through the rule of five kings of Judah: **King Josiah, King Jehoahaz, King Jehoiakim, King Jehoiachin, and King Zedekiah**. He went on to serve during the time of Jerusalem's destruction by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. (Jer 1:3; 52:7-11).

Pagan Worship

What did Jeremiah see while he was growing up? Please turn to 2 Kings 23:14-15.

¹⁴And he broke in pieces the sacred **pillars** and cut down the wooden **images**, and filled their places with the bones of men. ¹⁵Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that **altar** and the **high** place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and burned the wooden image.

While growing up, Jeremiah saw the tearing down of pagan high places of worship—altars, pillars, images and even shrines that were built during Solomon's time (2 Ki 23:10-15).

What were high places? They were places of worship on elevated pieces of ground or raised altars in low land, such as a valley. High places were originally dedicated to idol worship, especially among the Moabites (Is 16:12). These shrines often included an altar and a sacred object, such as a stone pillar or wooden pole in various shapes, identified with the object of worship (e.g., animals or goddesses).

Jeremiah's Main Message

When Jeremiah started work as a prophet, Judah's King Josiah was only 21 years old. During his reign, King Josiah had already begun to make major reforms to bring Judah back to proper worship for God (2 Chr 34:3).

Let's study Jeremiah 11:8. Jeremiah devoted himself to preaching "**the words of this covenant**" to the people in Jerusalem and throughout Judah. To remain God's people, the Israelites had to make a beautiful promise, a covenant, with God. They belonged to God, so they were to serve Him only. However, God's people would not listen to this message.

Jeremiah Reveals the Sins of God's People

Students, do you remember King Hezekiah? Was he a good king? Yes, he was a good king! About a century earlier, King Hezekiah led religious reforms in Judah (2 Ki 18:4), but his son Manasseh led the nation in the evil practice of child sacrifice and worship of the "queen of heaven" (Jer 7:18; 44:19). This continued into Jeremiah's time (Jer 7:31; 19:5; 32:35).

When God called Jeremiah to do His work, he was appointed to reveal the sins of the people and the consequences of ignoring them.

Firstly, God told Jeremiah that there were going to be invaders from the north because the people had broken their covenant with God (Jer 1:14-15). They had forsaken God by worshipping the false god called Baal, building altars to him to burn their children as offerings (Jer 2:8; 7:9; 19:4-5). God hated this, but His people would not listen to the warning of the prophet Jeremiah.

Secondly, Jeremiah told the people of their persistent sins. What were they? They were: **pride, idolatry; adultery; oppressing foreigners, orphans and widows; lying and slandering; and breaking the Sabbath** (Jer 44:1-30; 5:7-9; 7:5-6; 9:4-6; 17:19-27).

He also rebuked the priests and prophets for not taking up the responsibility of teaching the people. He warned the people, "If you do not repent, God will use the Babylonians to destroy the kingdom of Judah." Jeremiah stood alone declaring God's message of judgment on a nation that had rejected God. He courageously and faithfully proclaimed God's word to the people, even when no one listened.

As a result of the sins they had committed, God would not be with them anymore. The entire nation would now be faced with the consequence of famine and starvation. Invaders would come and they would be taken captive into a foreign land (Jer 14:12; 25:8-9)

Jeremiah Warns King Jehoiakim

The reigning King Jehoiakim was afraid that the empire of Babylon would come to attack Judah. He refused to seek help from God, and instead chose to rely on Egypt. After learning this, Prophet Jeremiah then asked his scribe Baruch to take a scroll and write on it all the words that God had spoken to Jeremiah about Israel, Judah, and all the nations, to be read to the people. Let's read Jeremiah 36:3. "It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I purpose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."

God had hoped His people would repent from doing evil and worshipping idols and turn back to Him so that He would change His mind and spare them from the disaster. Wanting to know what the scroll contained, King Jehoiakim sent Jehudi to get the scroll and read it to him. Jehudi only read aloud three or four columns from the scroll when Jehoiakim took his knife and cut off what had been read from the scroll and tossed it into the fire. This was repeated until the fire had burned the entire scroll. The king was not afraid of God's words. Instead of repenting and turning away from his wickedness and turning to God for forgiveness, Jehoiakim commanded his son to go and capture Jeremiah and Baruch. Jeremiah and Baruch could not be found because the Lord had hidden them away (Jer 36:26).

Destroying the scroll didn't stop God's punishment from happening. Eventually, the Babylonians attacked Jerusalem, and captured Jehoiakim, carrying him away to Babylon. His son Jehoiachin, who succeeded the throne, was also carried away to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar after his short reign of three months. His uncle, Zedekiah, succeeded him.

Zedekiah Refuses to Listen to Prophet Jeremiah

After the Babylonians carried away King Jehoiakim and

King Jehoiachin, the Israelites still did not repent and return to God. Then, during his reign, King Zedekiah broke his loyalty oath to the king of Babylon. Ignoring Jeremiah's entreaties and warnings, he secretly sought an alliance with the king of Egypt to fight against the Babylonians. In the ninth year of his reign, Zedekiah declared an open revolt against the Babylonians. Once again, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon led an army to crush the revolt. The Babylonian army arrived at the gates of Jerusalem and laid siege there. In desperation, Zedekiah sent word to Jeremiah, asking him to pray to God for deliverance. Jeremiah asked King Zedekiah to surrender and spare the lives of all the inhabitants of the city. Zedekiah did not listen to Jeremiah's advice and he refused to surrender.

Meanwhile, Nebuchadnezzar temporarily retreated because he had heard that the large Egyptian army was marching against him. Jeremiah was now accused of being an agent of the enemy and put in prison. King Zedekiah believed that the trouble was over, but when he asked prophet Jeremiah what the future held for his kingdom, Jeremiah again replied, "You shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon!" After an 18-month siege, the Babylonian armies broke through the walls of Jerusalem and took the city.

Let's read 2 Kings 25:3-4.

By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. Then the city wall was broken through, and all the men of war fled at night by way of the gate between two walls, which was by the king's garden, even though the Chaldeans were still encamped all around against the city. And the king went by way of the plain.

Zedekiah left his city and ran for his life! Let's continue reading verses 5-7.

But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him. So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him. Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon.

King Zedekiah was captured and sentenced to banishment after his sons were put to death in his presence. He was thrown into prison and his eyeballs plucked. Besides taking captive the people in Jerusalem, the Babylonians also carried away the sacred things of the temple. The Babylonians set fire to the city of Jerusalem, the temple,

the king's palace, and the houses of the chief princes and principal men. The entire kingdom of Judah became a place of desolation.

History is full of powerful kings who refused to listen to God. Instead of repenting and submitting to God's will, they repeatedly chose to put their desires over His desires.

Jeremiah Witnesses the Destruction

Jeremiah saw everything that God had warned. In fact, Babylon attacked Judah's cities so many times that Jerusalem was utterly destroyed. Jeremiah was in so much sorrow seeing God's people being taken captive as a result of forsaking Him. It was a terrible time (Jer 39:1).

The Suffering of Jeremiah

Jeremiah experienced many hardships as a prophet. His own relatives conspired against him (Jer 12:6).

In Jerusalem, a priest named Pashhur beat Jeremiah and put him in the stocks in the high gate of Benjamin for a day (Jer 20:1-2). After this, Jeremiah cried because of the hardship that had come for speaking God's words. He became a laughingstock and a target of mockery.

After some time, evil men received the king's approval to arrest Jeremiah for speaking God's prophesies about the coming disaster. They lowered him by ropes into a cistern, and then put him into a layer of mud. When another official heard about this, he pleaded with the king to allow him to rescue Jeremiah before he died of hunger at the bottom of the cistern (Jer 38:1-13).

Despite all the suffering and persecution that Jeremiah experienced as a prophet of God, he continued with boldness because God's words became like fire in his heart. God's word is full of truth and power; Jeremiah was unable to hold them back (Jer 20:9).

Though Jeremiah experienced great suffering as a worker of God, God loved him deeply. God said, "I will make you to this people a fortified bronze wall; and they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you; for I am with you to save you and deliver you" (Jer 15:20-21).

Jeremiah's Relationship with God

Jeremiah had a very close relationship with God. Even though there were times he felt sad and lost, he learned to trust God during his many trials. In Jeremiah 32:17, he wrote, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You." Jeremiah understood that no matter what happened, God

was still in charge—He is God and He is sovereign.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit" (Jer 17:7-8).

Conclusion

Nebuchadnezzar released Jeremiah from the prison and invited him to live in Babylon not as a captive, but as an honored guest. Jeremiah chose to stay behind with the common people who had been left in Judah. He was eventually taken to Egypt, together with the rest of the people who were afraid to live in the land, against his will.

Jeremiah had a traumatic life. He had been beaten, mocked, and imprisoned several times, because he chose to obey God and separate himself from the wickedness of the people in Judah. He was also spiritually wounded and shed a lot of tears, not only for his people, but also for the hardships that he had to endure.

From historical records, we can see that prophet Jeremiah served over 40 years. During that period of time, he wrote both Jeremiah and Lamentations—lamenting the fall of Jerusalem and the afflictions of God's people because of God's wrath. His life was one of weeping and lamenting because of what he had to endure and experience, and because God had chosen him to be His servant and prophet. Yet, he was a faithful worker for the Lord.

FOR TEACHERS

Allow the students time to finish the worksheet. Review the answers to ensure correctness.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

By grace we have been saved through faith. We must rely on the **Holy Spirit** to pursue purity, to put the teachings of the Bible into practice, and to fear God and love all men.

The people of Israel were God's chosen people, but they did not want to hear what the prophet had to say, and his constant warning of judgment annoyed them. This is true of the world today, as we who are the believers of Christ try to spread the gospel to non-believers and preach about the impending judgment, only for our efforts to be rejected or ignored. However, we must persevere in proclaiming the truth in order to save even a few lives from the terrible judgment that will inevitably come.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

Fill In the Blank

1. Jeremiah's father, Hilkiah was a priest.
2. God began to speak to Jeremiah on the thirteenth year of King Jehoiakim's reign.
3. When the Lord called Jeremiah, he answered that he did not know how to speak and that he was too young to take such an important task.
4. The Lord touched Jeremiah's mouth and said that He had put His words in his mouth.

Questions to Think About

5. **What would happen to a nation that repented after the Lord warned about its destruction?** God would change His mind and spare it from the disaster.
6. **What did God hope for the people of Israel to do after learning about this warning?** God hoped for the Israelites to repent from doing evil and worshipping idols and to turn back to Him.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. I Belong to Him. I Am Set Apart.

The Call of Jeremiah (Jer 1:4-9)

The call of Jeremiah is rich in its teachings.

God is the Lord of life. God formed Jeremiah in the womb. Jeremiah had biological parents, of course, but God Himself was the one who fashioned him and knit him together in his mother's womb. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." I knew you—what a beautiful thing for God to say to His children!

In other words, God made a personal commitment to you even before you were born! What a blessing to know that God knows you, God loves you, and God has entered into a personal relationship with you!

- A. "Before I was born, God already knew me."
- B. If I want to know who I am, I have to know whose I am. That means, I belong to Jesus Christ.
- C. Jeremiah's life was set apart and dedicated to holy service long before he was born. God chose him for ministry.

How can I apply this to my life?

1. Long before I was born, God knew me already.
2. I belong to Jesus Christ; He is my Lord and King.
3. My life is set apart to do work for God, my King.

Let's read Ephesians 1:3-4. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. [...] He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

It said God chose us before the creation of the world. **What is the purpose of God choosing us?** So that we can be holy and blameless in His sight!

How can we be holy and blameless in His sight?

Let's read the first half of John 15:16. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit." This verse tells us that to be holy and blameless, we must bear fruit.

Now let's look at Galatians 5:22-23. This verse tells us that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

* * * * *

2. Every Christian Has a Calling!

Everyone who believes in Christ has a special calling to a particular area of ministry. Jeremiah was not just set apart for salvation; he was set apart for serving God as a prophet. God had work for him to do. Jeremiah had a mission to accomplish and a message to deliver to his generation.

"See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant" (Jer 1:10). The prophet's job description includes six tasks.

- To "root out" is to dig up nations by the roots and turn them under.
- To "pull down" is to tear down a standing structure, like knocking down a city wall or toppling a tower.
- To "destroy" is another word for knocking things down.
- To "throw down" is to demolish, to bring to complete ruin.

Once the Lord roots out, pulls down, destroys, and throws down a nation, there is not much left.

But when everything has been torn down and plowed under, God will start afresh. He will begin a new work. He will "build;" He will "plant." He will bring renewal out of demolition.

Of course, not everyone is a Jeremiah; Jeremiah's calling is not for everyone. But you do have a calling.

God not only knew you and chose you, but He also has a plan for your life. Right now you're still young, and you're still trying to figure out what God's plan is for you.

If you are not sure, there are at least four things you must do.

1. Spend time in prayer and read the Bible daily.
2. Serve your family and church members.
3. Go to church to worship.
4. Be God's witness in the world.

The next thing you can do is to ask Him to reveal His will for your life.

Do Not Fear When God Calls You!

Jeremiah knew what God wanted him to do after he received his divine call. But he had two main concerns. "Ah, Lord God," he said, "Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth" (Jer 1:6). He was not sure what to say or how to say it.

When God gives his servants a clear calling, He does not accept any excuses. God told Jeremiah, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you'" (Jer 1:7). After this command, God

reached out His hand and touched Jeremiah's mouth. With this, God's words were now in Jeremiah's mouth (Jer 1:9).

God did not disqualify Jeremiah on the basis of his youth and inexperience. God wanted Jeremiah to know that when He calls someone to do a job, He gives him or her all the abilities needed to do the job. There is nothing for us to fear.

Once you know what God has called you to do, trust Him to equip you to do it. He will give you everything you need to do that job.

In Jeremiah 1:7-8, God reassured Jeremiah, "Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you."

God commanded Jeremiah not to fear and promised to rescue him. Jeremiah had the promise of God's presence. It was not easy for Jeremiah to speak God's words—God's people eventually went from idolatry to exile. It was a desolate time. But Jeremiah remained faithful.

If God has done all that for you, will you go wherever he tells you to go, and say whatever he wants you to say?



Activity

Evangelical Fliers

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To cultivate the students' imaginations and evangelism methods through drawing.

After learning about the story of the prophet Jeremiah, we know that he spoke the warnings of God to the people, only to be mocked and attacked. However, he did not lose heart because of this and continued to spread the message of Judah's impending destruction, encouraging them to repent before it happened. Can we also learn from Jeremiah's example and courageously speak the word of God?

Materials

- Poster paper
- Markers
- Colored pencils

Instructions

1. The students will try their hand at making an evangelical poster. The content can be the sinful things that people do nowadays, such as robbing, stealing, fighting, swearing, testifying falsely against others, not worshipping the one true God, creating and worshipping idols, not sympathizing with others, not attending service, watching too much TV, not helping the elderly and disabled, etc. Each of these can be drawn on the poster, and upon completion, the students can create a warning message for the poster that will spread the message that God is going to destroy this world, but that we can repent and return to God.
2. Choose a few volunteers to share about their posters so that everyone can see what others have made.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. seventeen
2. scroll, fire
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. God hoped for the Israelites to repent from doing evil and worshipping idols and to turn back to Him.)
8. Answers may vary.

PROPHET JEREMIAH

A **Jeremiah 1:4-9**

⁴Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:
⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I _____ you;
 before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a
 _____ to the nations."
⁶Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a _____."
⁷But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.
⁸Do not be _____ of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord.
⁹Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My _____ in your mouth."

B **How many kings did Jeremiah serve?**

He served five kings

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

Pagan Worship

C **What did Jeremiah see around him as he was growing up? (2 Kings 23:14-15)**

¹⁴And he broke in pieces the sacred _____ and cut down the wooden _____, and filled their places with the bones of men.
¹⁵Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that _____ and the _____ place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and burned the wooden image.

D **What was Jeremiah's main message?**

Jeremiah devoted himself to preaching " _____

 _____."

E **The People Committed These Sins**

1. P _____

2. I _____

3. A _____

4. O _____
 _____, _____,
 and _____

5. L _____ and s _____

6. B _____
 the _____



I Belong to Him. I Am Set Apart.

The Call of Jeremiah (Jer 1:4-9)

The call of Jeremiah is rich in its teachings.

God is the Lord of life. God formed Jeremiah in the womb. Jeremiah had biological parents, of course, but God Himself was the one who fashioned him and knit him together in his mother’s womb. “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.” I knew you—what a beautiful thing for God to say to His children!

In other words, God made a personal commitment to you even before you were born! What a blessing to know that God knows you, God loves you, and God has entered into a personal relationship with you!

- A. “Before I was _____, God already _____ me.”
- B. If I want to know who I am, I have to know whose I am. That means, I _____ to Jesus Christ.
- C. Jeremiah’s life was _____ and dedicated to _____ service long before he was born. God chose him for ministry.

How can I apply this to my life?

- 1. Long before I was born, God _____ me already.
- 2. I _____ to Jesus Christ; He is my Lord and King.
- 3. My life is _____ to do work for God, my King.



Let’s read Ephesians 1:3-4. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. [...] He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”

It said God chose us before the creation of the world. What is the purpose of God choosing us? So that we can be _____ and _____ in His sight!

How can we be holy and blameless in His sight?

Let’s read the first half of John 15:16. “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.” This verse tells us that to be holy and blameless, we must bear fruit.

Now let’s look at Galatians 5:22-23. This verse tells us that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is:



Every Christian Has a Calling!

Everyone who believes in Christ has a special calling to a particular area of ministry. Jeremiah was not just set apart for salvation; he was set apart for serving God as a prophet. God had work for him to do. Jeremiah had a mission to accomplish and a message to deliver to his generation.

"See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to _____ and to _____, to _____ and to _____, to _____ and to _____" (Jer 1:10).

The prophet's job description includes six tasks.

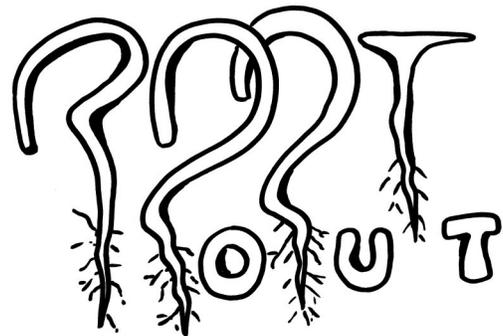
- To "root out" is to dig up nations by the roots and turn them under.
- To "pull down" is to tear down a standing structure, like knocking down a city wall or toppling a tower.
- To "destroy" is another word for knocking things down.
- To "throw down" is to demolish, to bring to complete ruin.

Once the Lord roots out, pulls down, destroys, and throws down a nation, there is not much left. But when everything has been torn down and plowed under, God will start afresh. He will begin a new work. He will "build;" He will "plant." He will bring renewal out of demolition.

Of course, not everyone is a Jeremiah; Jeremiah's calling is not for everyone. But you do have a calling. God not only knew you and chose you, but He also has a plan for your life. Right now you're still young, and you're still trying to figure out what God's plan is for you.

If you are not sure, there are at least four things you must do.

1. Spend time in _____ and read the _____ daily.
2. _____ your family and church members.
3. Go to church to _____.
4. Be God's _____ in the world.



The next thing you can do is to ask Him to reveal His will for your life.

Do Not Fear When God Calls You!

Jeremiah knew what God wanted him to do after he received his divine call. But he had two main concerns. "Ah, Lord God," he said, "Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth" (Jer 1:6). He was not sure what to say or how to say it.

In Jeremiah 1:7-8, God reassured Jeremiah, "Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you."



God commanded Jeremiah not to fear and promised to rescue him. Jeremiah had the promise of God's presence. It was not easy for Jeremiah to speak God's words—God's people eventually went from idolatry to exile. It was a desolate time. But Jeremiah remained faithful.

If God has done all that for you, will you go wherever he tells you to go, and say whatever he wants you to say?

E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 11—Prophet Jeremiah

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Pray	<input type="checkbox"/>						

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Jeremiah 1:7**)

Fill In the Blank

1. Jeremiah was only around _____ years old when God called him to be His prophet.
2. In order to warn the people about God's destruction, Jeremiah instructed Baruch to write God's message on a _____, but King Jehoiakim cut it up and threw it into the _____.

Multiple Choice

3. _____ : Jeremiah's father, Hilkiyah was a _____.
 - a. Prophet
 - b. Levite
 - c. Priest
4. _____ : God began to speak to Jeremiah, on the thirteenth year of king _____'s reign.
 - a. Josiah
 - b. Jehoiakim
 - c. Jehoiachin
5. _____ : When the Lord called Jeremiah, he answered that he did not know how to speak and that _____.
 - a. He was too busy.
 - b. He was only a child.
 - c. He was afraid to take such an important task.
6. _____ : The Lord touched Jeremiah's mouth and said that He had put _____ in Jeremiah's mouth.
 - a. His words
 - b. His blessings
 - c. His curses

Short Answer

7. What did God hope for the people of Israel to do after learning about this warning?
8. Share about a time when you thought you were too young to do something. What can you learn from the example of prophet Jeremiah?