



# Jeremiah at the Potter's House

**Lesson Aim:** To trust God has plans for us and determines the best way to shape them.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God is:** The God Who Is Faithful

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Jeremiah 18:1-12; 19:10-11a; 29:11-13

**What He has done:** God compared Himself and Israel to the potter and the clay.

**Key Verse:** Jeremiah 29:13

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** Romans 9:20-21

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." Philippians 2:8b-11a

Unit 8: The Prophets and God's Faithfulness			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
38	The Prophet Isaiah, Isaiah 53:6; 45:22-23; 9:2, 6-7; 40:31	God gave Isaiah the message of hope about the coming Savior.	To know we all need Jesus as our Savior every day.
39	Micah and God's Courtroom, Micah 6:1-2, 6, 8; 7:8b-9, 13, 18-19	God sent Micah to the people in Judea with a message of judgment and hope.	To know the three choices God expects us to make.
40	The Prophet Zephaniah, Zephaniah 1:12; 2:3; 3:17-20	God sent Zephaniah to warn the people about complacency and encourage those who seek Him.	To find security and comfort in the knowledge of God's love for those who seek Him.
41	Jeremiah at the Potter's House, Jeremiah 18:1-12; 19:10-11a; 29:11-13	God compared Himself and Israel to the potter and the clay.	To trust God has plans for us and determines the best way to shape them.
42	God Answers Habakkuk, Habakkuk 1:2, 13; 2:2-4, 20; 3:17-18	God answered Habakkuk's questions.	To show God wants us to trust Him to punish evil and keep all His promises.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Romans 8:35-39. Please join us in praying, "Lord, thank You for choosing us to teach Your children. Give us Your words to speak to them. Help each of us to seek You wholeheartedly and trust in Your promises. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> I Will Go!	Paper, marker, tape
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	<b>Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "At the Name of Jesus" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Do Justly" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" "Search Me, O God" "You Will Seek Me" "The Lord Is My Shepherd" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Trust and Obey" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> Lamentations 3:22-23	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 41 The Love Sub script or storybook
		<b>Read the Word:</b> Jeremiah 18:1-12; 19:10-11a; 29:11-13	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Discuss the Word</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters, optional: Treasure Treats
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> Romans 9:20-21	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	Treasure Treats—Play-dough or modeling clay, W <sup>3</sup> s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus," CD player
	Final 5		
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Food for Every Age	Soft food that all ages enjoy (applesauce, pudding, custard, gelatin, ice cream, etc.) served in a cup, spoons
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Seek & Find	Bible, cloth belt or long scarf
	Up to 15	<b>Craft:</b> Seeking God's Pottery	Modeling clay or play-dough (You may use the Treasure Treat.), paper clips, rubber stamps (or similar objects such as coins that will create an impression)
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Passing the Light	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster, extra large paper, tape or tacks, marker, flashlight
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Kneel & Say	Kneeling pad (small cushion or pillow), Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus," CD player
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Timeline Review</b>	Date with story title or name printed on card

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

# THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

**Meet & Greet Question: What do you plan to do in the future?**

## **GAME: I WILL GO!**

**Purpose:** Children will begin to understand God has a plan for where they will go to serve Him.

**Supplies:** Paper, marker, tape

**Prepare:** On 6-8 sheets of paper, write the name of a different location. Include both local and global locations that are familiar to the children. Post the signs around the perimeter of the play area.

**Optional:** For beginning readers, substitute location names with pictures of objects which are mentioned in the book of Jeremiah such as a linen belt, clay jar, mouth, heart, ear, or well.

**Let's have a race! Pay close attention to know when it is your turn to race and where you must go.**

### **Directions:**

1. Children stand in the center of the room.
2. Point out and read each location sign.
3. Say, "Names of two children, **I command you to go to location on a sign.**"
4. Both children race to touch that sign first.
5. Play again, calling out the names of two different children and a different location.
6. Continue playing until each child has a turn.

**God commanded the prophet Jeremiah to go wherever He sent Him. Let's find out what God wanted Jeremiah to do and say. We will also see how God has the same message for you and me.**

**Limited Space?** Children race by tossing paper airplanes or soft foam balls towards the correct sign. The child who tosses the object that lands closest to the sign or touches the sign first, wins the round.



The God who is faithful

## THE WORSHIP

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



**Today, we worship the God who is faithful. He keeps His promises and completes His plans. God was faithful to keep His promise to send the savior, when He sent His Son Jesus to die for us on the cross. Sing the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus."**

**Before the prophet Jeremiah was born, God had already chosen him and made a special plan for his life. God was faithful to complete His plan for Jeremiah. He will complete His plan for your life, too. God plans for us to be close to Him and worship Him forever. God promises we will find Him if we seek Him. Seeking God includes praying to Him, bringing our offering to Him, doing things His way every day, and loving the ones He has made. We can do all those things here and now as we worship God together. As we bring Him our offerings today, let's sing the promise from Jeremiah 29:11-13. Sing: "You Will Seek Me" as the offering is collected.**



**Jeremiah wrote two books of the Bible: Jeremiah and Lamentations. In Lamentations 3:22-23, Jeremiah praises God for His faithfulness. Read Lamentations 3:22-23.**



**Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 8, Lesson 41.**



**You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's faithfulness and His plans.**



God is the potter, we are the clay

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."**

**Last time, we learned Zephaniah announced many of the promises God has for those who seek Him. Seeking God is putting Him first in your life and doing things His way. Today, we will hear how God chose Jeremiah to show the people His plans for them and to tell them to seek Him with all their heart.** If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

**Before Jeremiah was born, God planned for him to be a prophet to the nations. He promised to give Jeremiah the words to say to the people. At that time, the people of Jerusalem and all of Judah worshiped idols and disobeyed God.** If map is available, point to Jerusalem, Israel. **God told him to use a linen belt to explain His warning to the people who refused to listen to Him, then He sent Jeremiah to the potter's house.**



**Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Jeremiah 18:1-12; 19:10-11a; 29:11-13. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse which is a choice everyone can make: Jeremiah 29:13.**

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Read Jeremiah 18:1-12.

**The people still refused to change their evil ways, so God sent Jeremiah to buy a clay jar and take the religious leaders of Jerusalem to a city gate. Let's find out what God told him to do next.** Read Jeremiah 19:10-11a.

**Jeremiah not only showed God's plan for those who refused to seek Him, he also told of God's promise for those who choose to seek Him. God has plans to prosper us, which are plans that are good for us.** Read Jeremiah 29:11-13.



Trusting God's plans for you

## THE WAY

**Optional:** Give children play-dough or clay (Treasure Treat) to mold into a pot or have them work on their craft during discussion.

**Just as He did for Jeremiah, God has known His plans for you since before you were born. One of His plans is for you to point others to God. Jeremiah did not know what to say to people about God; he was afraid of their reaction. Has it ever been hard for you to talk with others about God?** (Children respond.) **How can you find out what God wants you to say?** (Children respond.) **Reading the Bible is one way you can know God's words. You can trust God's plan that when the time is right, He will give you the words to say.**

**At the potter's house, God showed Jeremiah that He has plans for everyone. When the clay was ruined, the potter did not throw it away. What did he do instead?** (He formed it into another pot, as it seemed best to him.) **When we ruin things with our wrong choices, we are like the ruined clay on the potter's wheel. How is God like the potter and your life like that clay?** (Children respond.) **When our sin ruins things, God forgives us and continues to form the plans for our life, as it seems best to Him. What did God PROMISE to do if a nation He had warned made the CHOICE to repent of its evil?** (He would not bring on the disaster He had planned.)

**When the people refused to seek God, He told Jeremiah to give another WARNING to the religious leaders about the coming disaster. What did God tell Jeremiah to do as he warned them?** (Smash the clay jar.) **What did the smashed jar stand for?** (Jerusalem's coming destruction.) **Years later, Jeremiah would see Jerusalem destroyed in the same way. The people were captured and taken to Babylon. Even though they deserved these consequences, Jeremiah wept for the people of Jerusalem. That's why he is called the "Weeping Prophet."**

**God is like the potter, forming you into what He sees as best. What does a potter make from clay?** (Jars, pots, plates, sculptures, etc.) **Pottery for everyday use is made with a special purpose in mind. How is that similar to the way God makes us?** (Children respond.) **God made each of us the way we are for reasons that are important to Him.**

Distribute play-dough or clay. **Think about how God made you, about His plans for your life. Sometimes we do not understand His plans. What have you enjoyed about God's plan for your life so far?** (Children respond.) **What parts of His plan has been hard?** (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

**In hard times, have you ever wondered why God chose the plans He did for you?** (Children respond.) **Paul answered that almost 600 years after Jeremiah visited the potter's house.**



**FIND IT FIRST** > **Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Romans 9:20-21. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Romans 9:20-21.**

**God has made each of us for an important purpose. Even when we don't understand His plan, we can trust His promise to all who seek Him. What was that promise?** Review Jeremiah 29:11-13. **How do you already see this in your life?** (Children respond.)

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## GOLDEN BOWL

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8** says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is a piece of play-dough or modeling clay. Keep it to remind you that God is like the potter and we are like His clay. He has made you for a purpose and He has a plan for your life.

**W<sup>3</sup>:** Take home today's W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry #41. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jeremiah breaking the clay jar in front of the people.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song, "At the Name of Jesus," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SNACK: FOOD FOR EVERY AGE**

**Purpose:** Children eat a snack as they discuss how God uses every age to deliver His message.

**Supplies:** Soft food that all ages enjoy (applesauce, pudding, custard, gelatin, ice cream, etc.) served in a cup, spoons

**Why did Jeremiah think he was not ready to deliver God's message?** (He was a child.) **Can God use children like you to tell His message to other people?** (Yes.) **Let's eat a snack that people of all ages can enjoy. It will help us remember God chooses to use people of every age, from little babies to grandparents, to tell everyone His message.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is your favorite message in the Bible?"**

### **GAME: SEEK & FIND**

**Purpose:** Children will take turns playing a version of "Hot and Cold" as they consider how they can seek God with all their heart.

**Supplies:** Bible, cloth belt or long scarf

**Option:** Older children can practice searching within the Bible. Each time you play, have the child who finds the Bible look up a Bible verse and read it aloud. Use favorite verses or past Bible Memory Verses such as Jeremiah 29:11-13, Philippians 2:8b-11, Amos 4:12b-13, or Romans 8:38-39.

**What did Jeremiah say we can choose to do?** (Seek God with all our heart.) **When we seek God, we become close to Him. One way we can seek God is by reading the Bible. When we read about God, we learn more about Him. That makes us closer to Him! Let's play a game of "Seek & Find" with the Bible. When it is your turn to be the Seeker, you will begin by wearing the cloth belt over your eyes. God wants us to be as close to Him as this cloth belt is close to your eyes.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Choose one child to be the Seeker. Use the cloth belt or scarf to blindfold the Seeker.
2. Choose another child to hide the Bible in your meeting space.
3. Seeker removes the blindfold.
4. The other children direct the Seeker to find the Bible by saying "closer" when the Seeker moves closer to the Bible and "farther" when the Seeker moves farther away from the Bible.
5. After the Seeker finds the Bible, a new Seeker is chosen and blindfolded.
6. Continue playing until each child has a chance to be the Seeker.



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: SEEKING GOD'S POTTERY**

**Purpose:** Children will make assorted items with clay to help them remember they must seek God and trust His plan for their lives.

**Supplies:** Modeling clay or play-dough (You may use the Treasure Treat.), paper clips, rubber stamps (or similar objects such as coins that will create an impression)

**Prepare:** Straighten the paper clips so that one end can be used as a scraping tool. Write the following where children can see to copy it: **Seek God.**

**Option:** Make your own play-dough. See ResourceWell.org for a recipe.

**Alternate Craft:** Decorate your own "Jeremiah's Belt." Give each child a belt-length strip of cloth to decorate with materials such as markers, beads, jewels, fabric glue, felt, etc. Write **Seek God** on the belt. Read and discuss Jeremiah 13:1-11 while working on the belts.

**What was God's warning for Jeremiah?** (Do not say you are too young to deliver God's message.) **Jeremiah did tell God's message to the people. What choice did God give to the people?** (Seek God.) **What did God promise to do?** (Listen to them and give them a hope and a future.) **He told Jeremiah exactly how to use items such as belts and pottery to explain God's plans. One day, God told Jeremiah to go to the potter's house. There, God promised to give Jeremiah a message for the people. As you shape your clay, I will describe what happened when Jeremiah reached the potter's house. This story is found in Jeremiah 18:1-12.**

### **Directions:**

1. Divide the clay between the children.
2. **Jeremiah watched while the potter shaped the clay to make a pot. Take your ball of clay and begin shaping it into a pot.** Children shape clay into a pot shape.
3. **Now, press it flat and reform it into its original ball shape.** Children shape clay into a ball.
4. **The potter shaped the pot to his liking. God said His people are like clay in His hands. Just as the potter controls the plans for his clay, God controls and shapes His plans for us.** Children reshape their ball of clay into a new creation. They may choose to shape their clay into a pot, plaque, figurine, car, flower, or another object.
5. Show children how to use the tip of a paper clip to write "Seek God" onto their clay creations.
6. Use stamps or other objects to press designs into the clay.
7. **Take your clay creation home and let it dry. Use it to share God's message about seeking Him. Remember, you can be like Jeremiah. Even though you are a child, you can still tell God's message to others.**

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” Philippians 2:8b-11a

### **GAME: PASSING THE LIGHT**

**Purpose:** Children learn the meaning of the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster, extra large paper, tape or tacks, marker, flashlight

**Prepare:** Write “Jesus” in large letters and hang it as high as possible in your classroom.

Seat children in a circle. Read the Bible Memory Verse. **What did Jesus do when He humbled Himself?** (He obeyed God and died on the cross for us.) **God exalted Jesus. That means He gave Him the highest praise. He gave Him the highest place of honor—a seat on the heavenly throne. What should we do to honor our Lord Jesus?** (Bow to Him, say aloud that He is Lord, and praise His name.) **One way to honor His name is to remember His Word, the Bible. In this game, when the light is passed to you, it is your turn to shine the light on Jesus’ name and say the next phrase of the Bible Memory Verse.**

#### **Directions:**

1. If possible, dim or turn off the lights. Shine the flashlight on the Bible Memory Verse poster. Lead the children in reciting the scripture together.
2. Give the flashlight to one of the children.
3. That child shines the flashlight on Jesus’ name and says the first few words of the Bible Memory Verse. (Children may shine the flashlight on the Bible Memory Verse poster and read the phrase from there.) The child quickly passes the flashlight to the child on his or her right.
4. Repeat step 3 until each child has a turn holding the flashlight and reciting the next few words. You may need to repeat the passage so everyone may have a turn.

### **GAME: KNEEL & SAY**

**Purpose:** Children memorize the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Kneeling pad (small cushion or pillow), Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song “At the Name of Jesus,” CD player

**In Isaiah 45:23, God promised that every knee would bow to Him. Then, over 700 years later, Paul wrote more about that promise in our new Bible Memory Verse. Because God is faithful to keep all His promises, we can trust that one day everyone will worship Jesus by bowing down on their knees. In this game, when the music stops, the person with the kneeling pad is to kneel on it and say the next few words of the Bible Memory Verse.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Lead the children in reciting the scripture together.
3. Play and sing the Bible Memory Verse Song as children pass the kneeling pad around the circle.
4. Stop the music. The child holding the kneeling pad is to kneel on the pad and say the next few words of the verse. If the child does not know the verse, encourage others to help.
5. Start the music and play again. Play several rounds.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Elijah through Malachi. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

**Micah (Circa 700 B.C.)** God showed the prophet Micah that God was the judge with a case against the people. He warned the people they would be punished for their sins. **What were the three choices God expected the people to make?** (Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God.) **What did God promise to do with their sin when He forgave them?** (To tread on their sins and hurl them into the deep sea.)

**Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.)** Zephaniah warned the people of Jerusalem that God would punish them for being complacent. They did not care about God nor did they think He would do anything about their sins. The choice God gave them was to seek Him. Zephaniah gave an amazing set of five promises from God. The promises show He is not angry with those who seek Him. He takes great delight in them!

**Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.)** Before Jeremiah was born, God had chosen him to be His prophet to the nations. He told Jeremiah exactly how to use items such as a linen belt and a clay jar to explain God's plans for those who seek Him and for those who do not. Jeremiah's main message was God has a plan for all who seek Him. **What did God promise would happen if you seek Him with all your heart?** (You will find Him.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah through Malachi:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 cards for Prophets & Promises Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

**Elijah – Malachi:** Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

**Unit 10:** 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-2 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 7-2 B.C.)