



God Chooses Jeremiah

Lesson Aim: To know God will give us the words we need to tell others about Him.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Is Faithful

THE WORD

Bible Story: Jeremiah 1:4-9

What He has done: God chose Jeremiah to speak His messages.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises." Psalm 145:13b

Unit 8: The Prophets and God's Faithfulness			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
38	Jonah Part One: Jonah Disobeys God, Jonah 1:1-17	God sent a storm when Jonah disobeyed; He sent a fish to save Jonah from that storm.	To know God watches over and rescues us.
39	Jonah Part Two: Jonah Prays to God, Jonah 2:1-10	God heard Jonah's prayer and forgave him.	To know God forgives us when we are sorry.
40	Jonah Part Three: Jonah Obeys God, Jonah 3:1-10	God gave Jonah a second chance to obey.	To know obeying God involves action.
41	God Chooses Jeremiah, Jeremiah 1:4-9	God chose Jeremiah to speak His messages.	To know God will give us the words we need to tell others about Him.
42	Jeremiah in the Well, Jeremiah 38:5-14, 17, 20	God saved Jeremiah in the well so he could give God's message to the king.	To know it is important to obey God.

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."

TEACHER'S TIP

Young children have a short attention span, so change activities every 5-10 minutes. To keep things running smoothly, make sure you have any supplies you need ready to go before children arrive. Also, plan extra activities in case an activity does not go over well or class time runs longer than usual.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a mouth
		Coloring Center: God Chooses Jeremiah	Coloring pages of Jeremiah speaking to the people, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Tell Others About God	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Bible Center: God's Word	2-3 children's Bibles
		Music Center: The Lord Is Faithful	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is Faithful"
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "The Lord Is Faithful" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Blessed Are Those" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Here Am I" "I Am with You" "I Can Do Everything" "I Will Always Obey Your Law" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 8, Lesson 41
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Jeremiah 1:4-9	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Jeremiah 1:9 Visual: Picture of the Bible story
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Jeremiah's Megaphone	Sturdy colored paper, megaphone template at ResourceWell.org, tape, crayons or markers, optional: 3 stickers (cross, heart, letter "U")
		Game: I Choose You!	"Jeremiah's Megaphone" crafts
		Game: Speak God's Words	None
		Snack: Speaking Snack	Megaphone-shaped snack (ex. Bugles snacks or Fruit Roll-Ups rolled into a cone shape)
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 8, Lesson 41
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Jeremiah 1:4-9	None
	Up to 10	Game: World Toss	Inflatable globe or ball, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is Faithful"
	Up to 10	Game: Memory Verse Echo	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about telling others about God

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God who is faithful

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a mouth. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a mouth help you remember to speak God's message to others.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: GOD CHOOSES JEREMIAH

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Jeremiah speaking to the people, crayons

DO

Children color the picture while talking about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

Today, we will hear how God promised to be with Jeremiah and to give him the words He wanted him to speak to the people. To speak God's words is to say what God wants us to say about Him. Where do we find God's words? (In the Bible.) We know every word in the Bible is true.

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: TELL OTHERS ABOUT GOD

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about telling others about God. Encourage children to make a mouth with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

What do we use to talk? (Our mouths.) Where is your mouth? Children point to their mouths. **Can you make a pretend mouth with the play-dough?**

If you could tell someone about God, what would you tell them? (Children respond.) Some answers might include, "God loves you," "God keeps His promises," "God is always with you," or they might share a favorite Bible verse or Bible story. **Let's use our play-dough mouths to tell each other about God.** Give each child a turn to hold his or her play-dough mouth in front of his or her face and share something about God with the other children.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BIBLE CENTER: GOD'S WORD

SUPPLIES

2-3 children's Bibles

DO

Children look through the Bibles as they talk about sharing God's words with others.

TALK ABOUT

Open a Bible. **The Bible is filled with God's words to us. Every word in it is true. When you get a little older, you will be able to read the words. Until then, how can you learn what the Bible says?** (e.g., ask someone to read to you, remember what you have learned in church or been taught by someone.)

What could you tell someone else about the Bible? (e.g., It's God's Word, every word is true, share a favorite Bible story or Bible verse, share something you know about God.)

Say and motion the following rhyme together.

- **The Bible is called God's Word,** (Use palms as an open book.)
- **And all of it is true!** (Raise thumbs up as OK.)
- **It's filled with words from God Himself,** (Point to heaven.)
- **About how He loves me and you.** (Point to self and others.)

MUSIC CENTER: THE LORD IS FAITHFUL

SUPPLIES

Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is Faithful"

DO

Play "The Lord Is Faithful" as children move and dance. Periodically stop the music and show the children how to freeze in place. Say and do the sign language for the Bible Memory Verse. Play as long as you like.

TALK ABOUT

In our story today, we will hear how God promised to be with Jeremiah. God always keeps His promises. Let's remember that as we sing and dance to our Bible Memory Verse Song.

Remember, "Lord" is one of God's special names. When the music stops, I want you to freeze in place and we will say and do the motions for our Bible Memory Verse together.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"The Lord	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
is faithful to	(faithful) Move the right index finger from the right side of the forehead downward. Change both hands to an "f" hand (thumb and pointer finger touching, other three fingers extended) and tap the right hand on top of the left hand twice.
all His promises."	(promises) Move the right index finger from the mouth. Open the same hand, face it forward, and place it on top of the left fist.
Psalms 145:13b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The God who is faithful

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



When we praise God, we are telling Him we love Him. How else can we tell God we love Him? (Children respond.) **Let's tell God we love Him through prayer.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, we love You so much. Thank You for being a great God. Help us to tell others about You. Amen.**



Today, we will hear how God promised to be with Jeremiah and give him the words He wanted him to speak to the people. Jeremiah did what God asked. He knew he could trust God's promise to be with him. Sing: "Here Am I."

Some of the money from our offering goes to help people speak God's words to others. Let's sing "I Can Do Everything" as we give our offering today. Play: "I Can Do Everything" while collecting the offering.



Now, let's see what Delbert and Lello know about God choosing Jeremiah! Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 8, Lesson 41.



At first, Jeremiah was afraid because he was a child and didn't know what to say. But, the Lord was faithful; He keeps all His promises. Remember, "Lord" is one of God's special names. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together. Practice the Bible Memory Verse with the motions.

"The Lord	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
is faithful to	(faithful) Move the right index finger from the right side of the forehead downward. Change both hands to an "f" hand (thumb and pointer finger touching, other three fingers extended) and tap the right hand on top of the left hand twice.
all His promises."	(promises) Move the right index finger from the mouth. Open the same hand, face it forward, and place it on top of the left fist.
Psalm 145:13b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Sing Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "The Lord Is Faithful."



God gave Jeremiah His words

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Jeremiah 1:9, picture of the Bible story

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Who is willing to help me today? Choose three volunteers. As you say each name, say, "**I choose name of child.**" Say to your volunteers: "**Together, we are going to tell the other children some wonderful things about God. I will give you the words to say.**"

- Whisper to the first child: **Say, "God loves you!"** Child says, "God loves you!" If the child is shy or doesn't want to say the words, suggest you say the words together.
- Whisper to the second child: **Say, "God is great!"** Child says, "God is great!"
- Whisper to the third child: **Say, "God chooses you!"** Child says, "God chooses you!"
- Say to your volunteers: **Were any of you afraid to speak?** (Children respond.)

In our story today, God chooses Jeremiah to tell people about Him, just like you (point to volunteers) **told the other children about God. Jeremiah was afraid. Let's find out what God told him.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Jeremiah 1:9.



WATCH THE WORD: JEREMIAH 1:4-9

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Jeremiah heard the Lord's voice say,**
- **"I knew you before you were born!**
- **That is when I chose you**
- **To speak words from the Lord."**

- **Jeremiah said, "I am just a child;**
- **I don't know what to say!"**
- **The Lord said, "Do not be afraid,**
- **I'll be with you every day."**

- **"You must say what I tell you to say,**
- **And go where I send you now."**
- **He touched Jeremiah's lips and said,**
- **"I've put my words in your mouth!"**

Will you be like Jeremiah and speak the words God gives you to say? (Yes.)



God will give us words about Him

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: JEREMIAH'S MEGAPHONE

Purpose: To remind the children of the story of God choosing Jeremiah to speak His message.

Supplies: Sturdy colored paper, megaphone template at ResourceWell.org, tape, crayons or markers, optional: 3 stickers (cross, heart, letter "U")

Prepare: Print and cut out one of the megaphone templates available at resourcewell.org. The first template, Megaphone1, just has the text:

**Jeremiah spoke God's Word.
Jeremiah 1:4-9**

The second template, Megaphone2, includes the outlines of a cross, heart, and "U" shape for children to color instead of using stickers.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5.

Today, we are making a megaphone. Megaphones help others hear our words.

Directions:

1. Color the front of the megaphone.
2. **Let's use our stickers (or color the shapes) to speak the words, "Jesus loves you" for God.**
 - a. Place the cross sticker (or color the shape) which stands for "Jesus" onto your megaphone.
 - b. Place the heart sticker (or color the shape) which stands for "loves" next to the cross sticker.
 - c. Place the letter "U" sticker (or color the shape) which stands for "you" next to the heart sticker.
3. Roll the paper to create a cone. Secure with tape.
4. Show children how to use the megaphone by having them say, "Jesus loves you" through the megaphone.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who did God choose to speak His words to the people? (Jeremiah.)**
- **God chose Jeremiah before he was born!**
- **Jeremiah was a child just like you. Why do you think he was afraid to speak to others about God? (Children respond.) Jeremiah thought he had to be older to speak about God and God's words. He was afraid because he didn't know what to say.**
- **Do you have to be older to speak God's words to others? (No.)**
- **God helped Jeremiah know what to say. Will God help you, too? (Yes.)**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: I CHOOSE YOU!

Purpose: Children will realize God chooses them to speak His message, just as He chose Jeremiah.

Supplies: "Jeremiah's Megaphone" crafts

God chose Jeremiah. God wanted him to speak His words to the people. God chooses you to speak His words, too. Some of the most important words from God are "Jesus loves you." In this game, when you are chosen, stand up and speak God's words, "Jesus loves you," in a loud, strong voice!

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle and hold their "Jeremiah's Megaphone" crafts.
2. The teacher walks around the circle, touches one child's head, and says, "**God chooses you.**"
3. Child stands and announces boldly through his or her megaphone, "**Jesus loves you.**"
4. Child then walks around the circle and chooses the next child to take a turn.
5. Play until each child has a turn to speak the message, "Jesus loves you."

GAME: SPEAK GOD'S WORDS

Purpose: To help children speak God's words by sharing the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Today, we learned God wants us to share His words with others. Let's practice by sharing our Bible Memory Verse with each other.

Directions:

1. Have the children stand in a circle.
2. Have the children crouch down. Begin by whispering the verse together, "**The Lord is faithful to all His promises.**" For an added challenge, do the motions as you say the verse.
3. Repeat the verse several times. Each time, say it a little bit louder and begin to stand taller. When the children are standing straight, shout the verse together.
4. Play again, but this time in reverse. Start by standing straight and shouting the verse. Each time you repeat the verse say it quieter and begin to crouch down until the children are back to the position they started in.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SPEAKING SNACK

Purpose: Children learn they can speak God's message to others, just like Jeremiah did.

Snack Suggestion: Megaphone-shaped snack (ex. Bugles snacks or Fruit Roll-Ups rolled into a cone shape)

Our snack is shaped like a megaphone. Real megaphones help people speak loudly. Can you say, "Jesus loves you," through your snack megaphone? Show children how to use their snack as a megaphone.

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **God wants us to speak His words to others. Can children speak God's words to others?** (Yes.) **Can you speak God's words to others?** (Yes.)
 - **Jeremiah was afraid he wouldn't know what to say. Who helped him know what to say?** (God.) **Who will help you know what to say?** (God.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| "The Lord | (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash. |
| is faithful to | (faithful) Move the right index finger from the right side of the forehead downward. Change both hands to an "f" hand (thumb and pointer finger touching, other three fingers extended) and tap the right hand on top of the left hand twice. |
| all His promises." | (promises) Move the right index finger from the mouth. Open the same hand, face it forward, and place it on top of the left fist. |
| Psalm 145:13b | Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible. |

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: JEREMIAH 1:4-9

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Jeremiah heard the Lord's voice say,** (Cup hand around ear.)
- **"I knew you before you were born!"** (Pretend to rock a baby in your arms.)
- **That is when I chose you** (Point to another child.)
- **To speak the words from the Lord."** (Point to heaven.)

- **Jeremiah said, "I am just a child;** (Shrug shoulders.)
- **I don't know what to say!"** (Shake head sadly.)
- **The Lord said, "Do not be afraid,** (Point index finger, as if giving a warning.)
- **I'll be with you every day."** (Lay hands over heart.)

- **"You must say what I tell you to say,** (Cup hands around mouth, as if shouting.)
- **And go where I send you now."** (Walk in place.)
- **He touched Jeremiah's lips and said,** (Touch lips.)
- **"I've put my words in your mouth!"** (Point from heaven to mouth.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises." Psalm 145:13b

GAME: WORLD TOSS

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Inflatable globe or ball, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is Faithful"

God is faithful. That means He keeps all His promises. Will God ever forget to keep His promises? (No.) **God made everyone in the world.** Hold up the globe. **Do you think God loves everyone in the world?** (Yes.) **God loves everyone including you!**

Directions:

1. Children stand (or sit) in a circle. Give the ball to one of the children.
2. When the teacher starts playing the song, children toss (or roll) the ball to one another. Encourage the children to sing as they play.
3. Periodically stop the song. When the song stops, the child holding the ball gives the ball to another child in the circle and says, **"God loves you, name of child."**
4. Lead all the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse, **"The Lord is faithful to all His promises."**
5. Repeat steps 2-4 until each child has had at least one turn saying "God loves you" or for as long as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: MEMORY VERSE ECHO

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

God chooses people like Jonah and Jeremiah to be God's messengers. Our Bible Memory Verse is a message from God telling people that He keeps His promises. We can be God's messengers and share our Bible Memory Verse with others. Let's practice with each other.

Directions:

1. Have the children stand in a circle.
2. Divide your class into two groups: the loud echo and the whisper echo.
3. Have them all crouch down until it is their turn to echo the verse.
4. Say the verse. Have the loud group stand and echo your words and then the whisper group.
5. Repeat a few times.
6. If you have time, reassign which group does which kind of echo and play again.
7. Optional: Add some variety to the echo. Do it faster each time or slower or have the children jump up and down, clap, or spin in a circle when it is their turn to echo.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about telling others about God.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 8, Lesson 41: God Chooses Jeremiah

PONDER! God chose Jeremiah to speak His words to the people (Jeremiah 1:4-9). Who helped Jeremiah know what to say? (God.) Can you speak God's words to others? Who will help you know what to say? (God.)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "God, thank You for choosing me. Please help me tell others about You. Amen."

PLAY! Sit in a circle. Place your megaphone craft in the middle. One person walks around the circle, chooses someone by touching his or her head, and says, "God chooses you." That person shares God's message, "Jesus loves you," through the megaphone. He or she is the next person to walk around the circle.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord

(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

is faithful to

(faithful) Move the right index finger from the right side of the forehead downward. Change both hands to an "f" hand (thumb and pointer finger touching, other three fingers extended) and tap the right hand on top of the left hand twice.

all His promises."

(promises) Move the right index finger from the mouth. Open the same hand, face it forward, and place it on top of the left fist.

Psalm 145:13b

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.