



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.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "I will speak."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made." 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."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a mouth
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "I will speak."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	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" "How Wide?" "I Am with You" "I Can Do Everything" "I Will Always Obey Your Law" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
		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: Toy megaphone
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Jeremiah's Megaphone	Sturdy colored paper, 3 stickers (cross, heart, letter "U"), tape, crayons or markers
		Game: I Choose You!	"Jeremiah's Megaphone" crafts
		Game: I Will Speak	Bible, "Jeremiah's Megaphone" crafts
		Snack: Speaking Snack	Megaphone-shaped snack (e.g., Bugles snacks or Fruit Roll-Ups rolled into a cone shape)
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 8, Lesson 41 Color This Story: "Jeremiah Speaks God's Words"	
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: Prophet Puppets	Robe, #10 size envelopes, decorating supplies (wiggle eyes, yarn for hair), glue, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about telling others about God

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



I will speak

THE 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. Today's Whisper Verse is "I will speak."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "I will speak."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"I will" Point to self.

"speak." The index finger of the hand shape for the number 4 (four fingers are shown) taps the mouth to represent words coming out from the mouth.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

"Clean Up Song": **Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!**
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "I will speak," Psalm 119:46. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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

It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who is faithful. That means He keeps all His promises. Today, we will hear how God promised to be with Jeremiah and 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. We find God’s words in the Bible. When God gives me words to speak about Him, I will speak. Will you? (Yes.) That reminds me of today’s Whisper Verse. Let’s try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: “I will speak.” Include sign language.



God chose Jeremiah to speak God’s words. Many believe Jeremiah was a young child, just like you. Jeremiah himself said he was a child. If you heard the voice of the Lord today saying, “I have chosen you to speak my words to others,” what would you say? (Children respond.) Sing: “Here Am I” and “I Can Do Everything.”

Some of the money from our offering goes to help people speak God’s words to others. Let’s give our offering to His church now. Play: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” or “Blessed Are Those” as background music 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. God promised He would be with him and give him the words to say. God kept His promises to Jeremiah. He keeps those same promises to us. He gives us the words to say through His words in the Bible. He is with us wherever we go. Sing: “I Am with You” and the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song, “The Lord Is Faithful.”



God gave Jeremiah His words

THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned Jonah obeyed God when he went to speak God's words to the people of Nineveh. Today, we will hear how God chose a boy named Jeremiah to speak His words.

Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Jeremiah 1:9.

WATCH THE WORD: JEREMIAH 1:4-9

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a toy megaphone. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- 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!"



What did the Lord touch? (Jeremiah's mouth.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.**

Read Jeremiah 1:9 from the teacher's Bible. **Remember that "Lord" is one of God's special names.**

God gave Jeremiah the words to say. He will help you know what to say, too. Will you speak the words God gives you to say? (Yes.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "I will speak."** Include the sign language or hand motions.



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, 3 stickers (cross, heart, letter "U"), tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: Along a short side of a sheet of sturdy colored paper, print: **Jeremiah Spoke God's Word. Jeremiah 1:4-9**

Optional: Instead of using stickers, print the outlines of a cross, heart, and "U" shape on the megaphone paper for the children to color.

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

Directions:

1. Color the front of the sheet of sturdy colored paper.
Roll the paper to create a cone, keeping about a 1" opening on one end for a mouthpiece.
2. **Let's use our stickers to speak the words, "Jesus loves you" for God.**
 - Place the cross sticker which stands for "Jesus" onto your megaphone.
 - Place the heart sticker which stands for "loves" to the right of the cross sticker.
 - Place the letter "U" sticker which stands for "you" to the right of the heart sticker.

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.)
- **That sounds like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions: "I will speak."

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: I WILL SPEAK

Purpose: Children will practice speaking God's Word out loud to the other children.

Supplies: Bible, "Jeremiah's Megaphone" crafts

Prepare: In your Bible, mark the following phrases in Psalm 96:

- Psalm 96:2 "Sing to the Lord."
- Psalm 96:2 "Praise His name."
- Psalm 96:4 "Great is the Lord."
- Psalm 96:5 "The Lord made the heavens."
- Psalm 96:9 "Worship the Lord."
- Psalm 96:11 "Let the heavens rejoice."
- Psalm 96:11 "Let the earth be glad."

God helped Jeremiah know what to say. Jeremiah told God's words to people. Where do we find God's words? (In the Bible.) You can speak God's words to people, too.

Directions:

1. To the first child, say, "**Will you speak God's words?**"
2. Child says and signs the Whisper Verse, "**I will speak.**"
3. Teacher holds Bible open to Psalm 96 and whispers the first phrase into the child's ear.
4. Child boldly repeats the verse through his or her megaphone to the rest of the class.
5. Play until each child has had a turn speaking, using a different phrase each time.

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 (e.g., 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 snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other 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. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the Whisper Verse with the motions: "I will speak."
 - **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.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Jeremiah's Megaphone" craft. Tell someone God chose Jeremiah to speak His words to the people.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how you can tell God's words to people, too.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jeremiah Speaks God's Words." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The Lord Is Faithful," as the children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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
and loving toward all He has made." 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.
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."**
4. Repeat steps 2-3 for as long as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: PROPHET PUPPETS

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

Supplies: Robe, #10 size envelopes, decorating supplies (wiggle eyes, yarn for hair), glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: For each child, seal an envelope. Cut a slit from side to side in the middle of the flap side of the envelope. Fold the envelope along the cut line to create two pockets.

God chooses people like Jonah and Jeremiah to be God's messengers. They are called prophets. Our Bible Memory Verse is a message from God. Let's make prophet puppets, so they can tell others this message from God.

Directions:

1. Show children how to place their thumb in the bottom pocket and their other four fingers in the top pocket. Show children how to make the puppet's mouth open and close.
2. Children add faces and decorate their "Prophet Puppets." Suggest they name their puppets after one of the prophets you have studied such as Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, or Jeremiah.
3. Choose one child each round to wear the robe and pretend to be his or her favorite prophet. Have that child help you lead the verse.
4. Say the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse, a few words at a time. Have children use their puppets as they repeat the words after you.
5. Have children write their names on their puppets. Collect the puppets at the end of teaching time, so they can be reused during all Unit 8 lessons (Lessons 38-42).



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! Read Jeremiah 1:4-9 with your family. When did God first know Jeremiah? When did God first know you? What did God choose for Jeremiah to do? Who promised to help Jeremiah know what to say? Remember, you are never too young to speak God's words to other people!

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for choosing me. Please help me tell other people what You want me to tell them about You. Amen."

PLAY! "I Choose You!" Sit in a circle. Place your "Jeremiah's Megaphone" craft in the middle of the circle. One person walks around the circle, chooses someone by touching his or her head, and says, "God chooses you." The chosen person says God's message, "Jesus loves you," through the megaphone. Play again. The person who said God's message is the next person to walk around the circle.

Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse:

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made." Psalm 145:13b