

Worship Illustration: Storybook

The Love Sub

Prophets & Promises Part 2: Elijah—Malachi

Unit 8, Lesson 41

Jeremiah the Prophet

Jeremiah 6:1-2, 6, 8; 7:8b-9, 13, 18-19

Shiloh held his breath and waited as the computer announced, "Time Travel Alert! Time Travel Alert! We have a Time Travel visitor in 3-2-1!" Still holding his breath, he and Handsome watched the Time Travel Tube intently, praying that, this time, they would see Woodstock slide safely into the room.

After what seemed like forever, Woodstock did slide feet first down the tube! His brown boots clunked against the metal floor as he stood up. "Whoa! Dudes, I'm back! It's so good to be back onboard the Love Sub!" he grinned broadly and grabbed Shiloh for a big bear hug.

"Welcome back, Uncle! We are so glad to see you!" Shiloh said, a little out of breath from the bear hug. "Where did you visit?"

"I've been traveling through time and meeting with different prophets of God. There are many cool prophets out there, but I think my new best friend is Jeremiah. Have you dudes heard of Jeremiah? He is one groovy dude!" Woodstock replied.

Handsome waved and Woodstock turned to slap palms with him. "Handsome! I missed you. How've you been, man?" Handsome picked up a ball of clay and held it out for Woodstock. "What's that? You got me a present? Far out, man!" Woodstock accepted the gift and rolled it in his hands. "It's clay! Oh, Handsome, you think of everything. You heard me talking about Jeremiah and remembered he's really into pottery."

"Tell us more, Uncle," Shiloh encouraged.

"Of course! I know just where to find more about him." Woodstock opened the porthole and removed the Bible. "Here it is! God told Jeremiah, 'Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you My message.' When he got there, God said this to Jeremiah, 'Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in My hand, oh house of Israel.'"

Shiloh nodded. "Wow, dudes. Sometimes, I feel like that clay."

"I think God was showing us a picture of the special relationship we have with God," Woodstock agreed. He grinned and gave the clay to Shiloh. "I've got an idea. Shiloh, why don't you make something cool and useful out of this clay." Shiloh took the clay and rolled it in the palm of his hand. Woodstock continued talking, "You know, Jeremiah and I actually learned alot while we were hanging out working with clay. I remember, while we were making stuff, Jeremiah told me how afraid he was when he was a young boy and he learned God had chosen him to be a prophet."

"What did he say?" Shiloh asked.

Woodstock read, "But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a child." You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you."

Immediately, the red light flashed and the siren sounded. "Whoa, did you guys hear that?" Shiloh exclaimed. "That was the warning God gave Jeremiah!"

Woodstock explained, "You see, Jeremiah was just a young man, like you dude, when God first called him, and he was just a little bit scared. He was thinking, 'Man, I'm just a little kid!"

"But, God can use kids to do His work!" Shiloh pointed out. "There were lots of kids in the Bible that God used: David, Samuel, Josiah, the boy with five loaves and two fish, and so many more!"

Woodstock nodded. "When God calls you, you should always say, 'Yes, Lord!' And, no matter how young or old you are, God will show you the way and help you make the right choices!" He looked down at the Bible in his hands and read, "You will seek Me and you will find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

Shiloh looked up at the red and green lights that flashed as the choice bell rang. "Awesome! That's it! That's the great choice God gave us through Jeremiah!"

"That's correct," Woodstock confirmed. "If we seek God with all our heart, He will be there for us.

"Dude, it sounds like God wants us to be close to Him," Shiloh commented.

Woodstock agreed. "That's right. God said He wants us to be as close to Him as a belt is close around your waist."

"Whoa, that's really close man! So, what happens when you're really close with God?" Shiloh asked.

"Well, when you're close with God, you trust His plan for your life." Woodstock read, "For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you."

"Wow, that's a great promise," Shiloh exclaimed over the sound of hands clapping. The promise green light flashed.

"God has a plan for your life and He promises to always listen to you, just like He did for Jeremiah," Woodstock explained. "Speaking of Jeremiah, how did you do with your pottery project? What did you make?"

Shiloh held up the bowl he had formed with the clay. "I made a bowl because it is something we can use."

Woodstock examined the bowl. "That's part of what God was teaching Jeremiah and us through the pottery. Each and every piece of pottery has a purpose and each and every one of us has a purpose, too. But, did the clay form itself into a useable object? No, it needed a potter. We are kind of like that clay and God is our potter. He molds us and shapes us. Sometimes we try to shape our lives our own way, and it can feel like we ruin everything. But, God doesn't just toss us aside like ruined clay. He molds us into something useful; whatever He sees as best."

Shiloh thought for a moment. Slowly he added, "That is what I think God is saying to me today. God has a plan for my life and He is going to use me to do godly things. I just need to trust Him."

"That's right," Woodstock agreed. "If you put your trust in God, He will never steer you wrong."

"Well dude, I'm going to go pray to God and ask Him to show me His plans for my life," said Shiloh. He turned toward the door to go to his sleeping quarters. "Whatever they are, I know the plans are good ones because like you always say, Uncle, 'No matter where you are in time ..."

" ... God is good all the time!" Woodstock finished and gave Shiloh two thumbs up.