



Jeremiah and the Linen Belt

Lesson Aim: To know God wants us to seek Him and be close to Him.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Is Faithful

THE WORD

Bible Story: Jeremiah 1:4-9; 13:3-11; 29:11-13

What He has done: God sent Jeremiah to tell of His plans for those who do and do not seek Him.

Key Verse: Jeremiah 29:13

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Romans 8:38-39

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; 9:2, 6-7	God gave Isaiah the message of hope about the coming Savior.	To know we all need the Savior whom God gave us in Jesus.
39	Micah and God's Courtroom, Micah 6:1-2, 8; 7:9, 13, 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; 2:3a; 3:17	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 and the Linen Belt, Jeremiah 1:4-9; 13:3-11; 29:11-13	God sent Jeremiah to tell of His plans for those who do and do not seek Him.	To know God wants us to seek Him and be close to Him.
42	God Answers Habakkuk, Habakkuk 1:2; 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."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: I Will Go!	Paper, marker, tape
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: "At the Name of Jesus" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Justly" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" "Search Me, O God" "You Will Seek Me" "The Lord Is My Shepherd" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Trust and Obey" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: Lamentations 3:22-23	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 41 The Love Sub script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Jeremiah 1:4-9; 13:3-11; 29:11-13	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Belt to share or Treasure Treat cloth belts for all, Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Romans 8:38-39	
	Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treats—Cloth belt (Belt-length strip of cloth) or Jeremiah 29:11-13 bookmarks, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: 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	Game: Seek & Find	Bible, cloth belt or long scarf
	Up to 15	Craft: Seeking God's Pottery	Modeling clay or play dough, paper clips, rubber stamps (or similar objects such as coins that will create an impression.)
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Passing the Light	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster, extra large paper, tape or tacks, marker, flashlight
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Kneel & Say	Kneeling pad (small cushion or pillow), Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus," CD player
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	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.



The linen belt

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 his or her 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 be His prophet to the nations. He told Jeremiah exactly how to use objects, such as a linen belt, to explain God's plans. 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.

God chose Jeremiah to be His prophet even before he was born. At that time, the people of Jerusalem and all of Judah worshiped idols and disobeyed God. If a map is available, point to Jerusalem, Israel. **God chose Jeremiah to show the people His plans for them and to tell them to seek Him with all their hearts.**



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share it with others. 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 1:4-9; 13:3-11; 29:11-13.

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.**

Let's begin by reading how God chose Jeremiah to be His prophet. Read Jeremiah 1:4-9.

Jeremiah went to the people and said everything God told him to say, including the warnings he knew the people would not want to hear. One time, God told Jeremiah to buy a linen belt to give the people a warning and show them how God felt about them. Linen is soft cloth. Read Jeremiah 13:3-11.

God gave the people a choice to seek Him and an amazing promise about His plan for those who make that choice. Listen carefully as I read. Read Jeremiah 29:11-13.



Choosing to seek God

THE WAY

Additional Supplies: Treasure Treats (cloth belts) or have one belt which children take turns wearing.

What did Jeremiah say when God chose him to be a prophet? (I am only a child.) **Have you ever thought you were too young to do something important?** (Children respond.) **Has it ever been hard for you to talk to others about God?** (Children respond.) **Jeremiah did not know what to say to people about God; he was afraid of what the people would do to him. God warned him not to say he was just a child, because He planned to give him all he needed to be a prophet. God planned to give Jeremiah the words to say.**

Do you think God wants you to speak His words to others? (Children respond.) **How can you find out what He wants you to say?** (Children respond.) **Reading the Bible is one way to know God's words. It is also a way you can seek Him with all your heart. To seek means to search for someone. What does seeking God with all your heart mean to you?** (Children respond.) **Jeremiah made the choice to seek God with all his heart.**

What did God tell Jeremiah to do to show how close He wanted to be with His people? (Wear a belt.) **Now, I'm going to give you a clean, new belt to remind you of Jeremiah's belt.** Distribute treasure treat cloth belts for everyone or have children take turns wearing one belt. **When you wear the belt, it is very close around you. How is this belt that hugs your waist like the friendship between God and His people?** (He wants us to be as close to Him as a belt is close to your waist.) **It is closer to you than a person can be, even if they are giving you a hug. What did God tell Jeremiah to do next with the belt?** (To hide it by burying it under rocks.) **What happened to the belt after it had been buried for many days?** (It was ruined and useless.) **That ruined belt is a picture of how useless we would be if we did not listen to God's words.**

What is God's plan for you if you listen and seek Him with all your heart? (He has "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.") **Plans to prosper us are plans that are good for us. In God's plan for our future, we will pray and He will listen. We will be as close to God as the belt is to our waist.**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

When we believe in Jesus, it is as if He washes away our sins and makes the ruined belt perfect. He brings us so close to God that nothing can separate us from His love. Paul describes this 600 years after God told Jeremiah to put on the belt.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Romans 8:38-39. Let's find this scripture. Read Romans 8:38-39.

Even those who believe in Jesus have times when they don't feel close to God. They may feel like a ruined belt hidden in the rocks. That's not what God wants for you. If ever you feel far from God, remember the choice and the promises He gives us. Review Jeremiah 29:11-13. **What are some ways you can choose to seek Him with all your heart?** (Talk to God in prayer. Read and obey God's Word. Love Him. Love others. Gather with others to worship Him.)

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 the cloth belt around your waist. Tell your family how Jeremiah's belt stands for our closeness with God. Hang it in your room. Let it remind you of how close God wants you to be with Him—like a belt around His waist.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 41 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jeremiah showing people the linen belt around his waist.

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, 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 (They can use their Treasure Treat.) 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.)