



# Jeremiah in the Well

Lesson Aim: To know it is important to obey God.

## THE WORSHIP

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

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Jeremiah 38:5-14, 17, 20

**What He Has Done:** God saved Jeremiah in the well so he could give God's message to the king.

## 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 Psalm 40:1-17. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for Your faithfulness. Help us live by faith and obey You. Help us teach the children to rejoice in Your presence and speak Your Word even during difficult times. Amen."

## TEACHER'S TIP

Understanding God loves them and cares for them is central to a young child's view of God. Point out everyday things that show God's love and care; the Bible, family, friends, creation, etc.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Welcome</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a well
		<b>Coloring Center:</b> Jeremiah in the Well	Coloring pages of Jeremiah in the well, piece of yarn, glue, crayons
		<b>Play-Dough Center:</b> Hearts of Obedience	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		<b>Activity Center:</b> Follow the Leader	Praise music
		<b>Music Center:</b> The Lord Is Faithful	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is Faithful"
	Up to 5	<b>Prepare for Worship</b>	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments <b>Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "The Lord Is Faithful" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "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"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 8, Lesson 42
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Jeremiah 38:5-14, 17, 20	2-3's storybook, puzzle with 3-6 pieces Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Jeremiah 38:13 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, puzzle with 3-6 pieces
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Jeremiah's Well	Paper lunch bag, shredded brown paper, crayons or markers, sturdy paper, craft stick, tape or glue
		<b>Game:</b> Save Jeremiah!	Brown cloth or paper, rope, crown
		<b>Game:</b> Let's Pretend	None
		<b>Snack:</b> Mud in the Well Snack	Chocolate pudding and chocolate cookies
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 8, Lesson 42
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Jeremiah 38:5-14, 17, 20	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> World Toss	Inflatable globe or ball, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is Faithful"
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Memory Verse Echo	None
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about obeying 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 well. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a well help you remember today's story about obeying God.**

**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: JEREMIAH IN THE WELL

### **SUPPLIES**

Coloring pages of Jeremiah in the well, piece of yarn, glue, crayons

### **DO**

Children color and add a rope (yarn) to the picture while talking about today's story.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**In our story, Jeremiah is thrown into a well. A well is a hole dug in the ground that people use to get water. This well didn't have any water in it, but the bottom was muddy. Can you color the bottom of the well brown like mud? God saved Jeremiah by sending people to pull him out with a rope. Glue a piece of yarn from the men above the well down to Jeremiah.**

## PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: HEARTS OF OBEDIENCE

### **SUPPLIES**

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

### **DO**

Children play with the play-dough while talking about love and obedience. Encourage children to make a heart with the play-dough.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**Obeying the people God has chosen to care for you is one way you can obey God. Who are some of the people who take care of you? (Parents, grandparents, teachers, police officers, and others who take care of you.) When we obey the people who care for us, we are showing our love for them and for God. Let's make hearts with the play-dough to remember the people God has chosen to care for us.**

# THE WELCOME *continued...*

## ACTIVITY CENTER: FOLLOW THE LEADER

### SUPPLIES

Praise music

### DO

Children learn the importance of obedience as they play "Follow the Leader."

### TALK ABOUT

**Let's play a game. In this game, you need to listen and obey what I ask you to do.** Lead the children through following a variety of simple instructions, such as "touch your nose," "pat your head," or "jump up and down." **You did a great job listening and obeying. Let's see how well you do at playing "Follow the Leader."** Play praise music. Have the children line up behind you. Walk around the room doing various actions for the children to imitate as they follow you. You can hop, skip, pat your head, turn in circles, dance, pretend to be various animals, an airplane, a motorcycle and other actions. If time remains, let children take turns being the leader.

## 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.**

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## 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](http://www.signingsavvy.com))

<b>"The Lord</b>	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
<b>is faithful to</b>	(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.
<b>all His promises."</b>	(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.
<b>Psalms 145:13b</b>	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 listen to Bible stories, we are hearing God's words to us. God gave us the Bible so we could know what He wants us to do. One of the things He asks us to do is to talk with Him in prayer. Let's pray now.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for the Bible. Help us to listen to Your words in the Bible and obey. Amen.**



**Another way we can obey God is to give our offering. Let's do that now and sing about the blessings that come when we obey Him.** Sing "Blessed Are Those" while collecting the offering.

**Obeying the people God has chosen to care for you is another way you can obey Him. We can also obey God by following the laws or the rules He has given us in the Bible.** Sing: "I Will Always Obey Your Law."



**In our story, Jeremiah is thrown into a deep well, but the Lord saves him. Let's see if Delbert and Lello know about Jeremiah and the well.** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 8, Lesson 42.



**Jeremiah saw the Lord was faithful to 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.

<b>"The Lord</b>	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
<b>is faithful to</b>	(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.
<b>all His promises."</b>	(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.
<b>Psalm 145:13b</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



**No matter where we go or what we do, we can always trust the Lord to keep His promises. Let's sing our Bible Memory Verse Song.** Sing the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse "The Lord Is Faithful."



God saves Jeremiah

## THE WORD

**Supplies:** Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Jeremiah 38:13, picture of the Bible story, puzzle with 3-6 pieces

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

<b>With my eyes on my teacher;</b>	Point to eyes.
<b>My mouth quiet as can be,</b>	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
<b>I will listen to hear,</b>	Cup hand around ear.
<b>How God loves you and me.</b>	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.

Before the children arrive, remove the pieces from the puzzle. **I brought a puzzle to share with you today. Do you think we can do it together?** (Children respond.) Choose a few children to help with the puzzle. Give each child one or more pieces. **Listen for when it's your turn.** One at a time, ask the children to put their pieces in the puzzle. Tell them where to put their puzzle pieces. When the puzzle is complete, show it to all the children. **You did a great job obeying my instructions.**

**In our story, we will learn it is important to obey God's instructions. Jeremiah knew it was important to obey God. God wanted him to tell the people to obey. Let's find out what happened when Jeremiah tried to share that message.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Jeremiah 38:13.



### **WATCH THE WORD: JEREMIAH 38:5-14, 17, 20**

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.

- **The Lord sent Jeremiah**
- **With words from the Lord to say.**
- **Some didn't want to listen,**
- **But Jeremiah obeyed.**
  
- **They threw him in a deep, dark well;**
- **He sank down in the mud.**
- **The king sent a friend and thirty men**
- **With ropes to pull him up.**
  
- **"Jeremiah," said the king,**
- **"What did the Lord tell you to say?"**
- **He gave the king this message,**
- **"Obey the Lord and you will be safe."**

**What did Jeremiah do when God sent Him to give His message? (He obeyed.) What should we do when God asks us to do something? (Obey Him.)**



God helps us obey 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 WELL**

**Purpose:** To remind the children of the story of how God saved Jeremiah from the well.

**Supplies:** Paper lunch bag, shredded brown paper, sturdy paper, craft stick, tape or glue, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** On sturdy paper, draw and cut out a 3-inch figure of Jeremiah. On a paper bag (the well), print:

**Jeremiah in the Well**  
**Jeremiah 38:5-14, 17, 20**

**Options:** Roll down or shorten the edges of the paper bag to make it easier for the children to move Jeremiah in and out of the well. Color the well or decorate it with brick or stone cut outs. Instead of a bag, use a sturdy paper cup for the well.

#### **Directions:**

1. Color Jeremiah.
2. Attach Jeremiah to the bottom of the craft stick.
3. Fill the well with "mud" (shredded brown paper).
4. Hold the top of the stick to move Jeremiah in and out of the well.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **The king's men were angry with Jeremiah. Where did they put him?** (In the well.) **The bottom of the well would have been covered in mud.**
- **The Lord God sent Jeremiah's friend and thirty men to save him. What did they use to pull Jeremiah out of the well?** (Ropes.)
- **When Jeremiah came out of the well, did He obey the Lord and give His message to the king?** (Yes.)
- **Can you obey God and do what He asks of you?** (Children respond.)

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: SAVE JEREMIAH!**

**Purpose:** Children will experience the story of Jeremiah in the well by acting it out.

**Supplies:** Brown cloth or paper, rope, crown

**Prepare:** Place four chairs in a circle for the well. Place brown cloth or crumbled brown paper in the middle of the four chairs.

### **Directions:**

1. Choose one child to be Jeremiah. Jeremiah sits in the well.
2. Choose another child to be the king. The king wears the crown and stands at the opposite end of the play area.
3. The remaining children are the king's men. They stand near the king.
4. **Oh no! They have put Jeremiah in the muddy well! God will send someone to save him.** Give the rope to the remaining children to hold. They move next to Jeremiah.
5. **Friends, can you give one end of the rope to Jeremiah so we can pull him out of the well?**  
The children "lower" the rope into the well and pretend to pull on the rope while Jeremiah stands up and walks out of the well.
6. **God has a message for the king. Jeremiah, can you tell the king the message?**
7. Jeremiah walks to the king and says, **"Obey God and you will be safe."**
8. Play again, allowing children to take turns playing Jeremiah and the king.

## **GAME: LET'S PRETEND**

**Purpose:** Children will practice listening and obeying commands.

**Supplies:** None

**Jeremiah told the Lord's message to the king. The king needed to listen and obey the Lord. Let's see how well you can you listen and obey.**

### **Directions:**

1. Choose a child to stand next to you.
2. Say to the child: **Let's pretend we are walking across a busy street. When I say, "Hold my hand." What should you do?** (Child holds your hand.)
3. Repeat steps 1-2 with each child, acting out a different familiar situation each time. Have the children help you think of additional situations they can act out. Some examples include:
  - You are playing outside. When I say, "Wash your hands before supper. What should you do?"
  - You are at home. When Mom says, "Don't jump on your bed. What should you do?"
  - It's time to eat. When Dad says, "Eat your dinner. What should you do?"
  - The dog has no water in his bowl. "What should you do?"
  - Your teacher says, "It's time to listen. What should you do?"

**God chooses parents, teachers, and those who care for you to keep you safe and healthy. Does the Lord want you to obey them? (Yes.)**



# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: MUD IN THE WELL SNACK**

**Purpose:** While eating a mud-inspired snack, children will discuss obeying the Lord.

**Snack Suggestion:** Chocolate pudding and chocolate cookies

**Our chocolate snack reminds me of mud! Who was put in the muddy well? (Jeremiah.)**

### **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.
  - **Jeremiah told the king the Lord wanted him to obey.**
  - **Who are the people the Lord wants you to obey?** (Parents, grandparents, teachers, policemen, and others who take care of you.)
  - **The Lord wants you to obey the people He has chosen to care for you. Obeying them is one way you can obey Him.**



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.

<b>"The Lord</b>	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
<b>is faithful to</b>	(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.
<b>all His promises."</b>	(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.
<b>Psalm 145:13b</b>	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 38:5-14, 17, 20**

**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.

- **The Lord sent Jeremiah** (Point to heaven.)
- **With words from the Lord to say.** (Cup hands around mouth, as if speaking.)
- **Some didn't want to listen,** (Cover ears and shake head no.)
- **But Jeremiah obeyed.** (Thumbs up.)
  
- **They threw him in a deep dark well.** (Look down.)
- **He sank down in the mud.** (Squat on the floor.)
- **The king sent a friend and thirty men** (Clap hands.)
- **With ropes to pull him up.** (Jump up to stand.)
  
- **"Jeremiah," said the king,** (Fold arms.)
- **"What did the Lord tell you to say?"** (Cup hand around ear.)
- **He gave the king this message,** (Cup hands around mouth, as if speaking.)
- **"Obey the Lord and you will be safe."** (Put hands to forehead. Pull them down and forward.)



### **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 obeying God.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 8, Lesson 42: Jeremiah in the Well

**PONDER!** Jeremiah is thrown in a well because the people didn't want to hear God's message. But, God saved him (Jeremiah 38:5-14, 17, 20). Did Jeremiah obey God and share His message with the king?

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, I know You care for me. You know what is best. Help me obey You. Amen."

**PLAY!** Take turns giving simple instructions, such as hop on one foot or touch your nose. The other people must listen closely to know how to obey. After you play, talk about why you must listen and obey the Lord. Where can you find the Lord's instructions?

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

**"The Lord**

**is faithful to**

**all His promises."**

**Psalms 145:13b**

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

(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.

(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.

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.