



# Jeremiah in the Well

Lesson Aim: To know it is important to obey the Lord.

## 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.

## THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Obey the Lord."

## 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 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."

Permission is granted to reproduce these materials. Not for resale. Use is subject to the Terms of Use available at ResourceWell.org. Terms are subject to change without notice. All other rights are reserved.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Treasure Chest</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a well
		<b>Whisper Verse</b>	Sign language for "Obey the Lord."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<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" <b>"How Wide?"</b> "I Am with You" "I Can Do Everything" "I Will Always Obey Your Law" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
		<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	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Jeremiah 38:13 Visual: Rope
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
		<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 8, Lesson 42 Color This Story: "Jeremiah in the Well"
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> Prophet Puppets	Robe, #10 size envelopes, decorating supplies (wiggle eyes, yarn for hair), glue, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about obeying God

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Obey the Lord

## 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 well. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a well help you remember today's story about obeying the Lord. Today's Whisper Verse is "Obey the Lord."** 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: "Obey the Lord."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

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

- "Obey"** Put hands to forehead and pull them down in a gesture of obedience.
- "(the) Lord."** Move "L" hand shape across from the left shoulder to the right hip as a royal sash.

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:** "Obey the Lord," Jeremiah 38:20. 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. What does faithful mean?** (Keeping all one’s promises.) **Today, we will hear how God sent Jeremiah with a message for the people and the king. He obeyed and went to speak God’s words to them. God wants us to obey Him as Jeremiah did. That reminds me of today’s Whisper Verse. Let’s try it together.** Review Whisper Verse together: “Obey the Lord.” Include sign language. **“Lord” is a special name for God.**



**One way we can obey the Lord 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.

**God wants us to obey Him. Obeying the people He has chosen to care for you is another way you can obey the Lord. We can also obey the Lord by following the laws He makes for us in the Bible. When we obey the Lord in these ways, we will be free to be even closer with Him.** Sing: “I Will Always Obey Your Law.”

**In our story, Jeremiah is thrown into a deep well, but the Lord saves him by sending a friend and thirty men to pull him out. We are reminded that the Lord our God is mighty to save.** Sing: “He Is Mighty to Save.”



**Now, 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.



**When Jeremiah was a boy, the Lord promised to protect him and tell him exactly what to tell others about the Lord. When the Lord saved him from the well and told him what to tell the king, Jeremiah saw the Lord was faithful to all His promises. Let’s sing our Bible Memory Verse song about that one last time.** Sing the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse “The Lord Is Faithful.”



God saves Jeremiah

## THE WORD

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

**With my eyes on my teacher;**

**My mouth quiet as can be,**

**I will listen to hear,**

**How God loves you and me.**

Point to eyes.

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

Cup hand around ear.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned God chose Jeremiah to speak His words. Today, we will hear how God sent people to save Jeremiah when he was in a well. 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 points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a rope. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- **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 the men use to pull him out of the well? (Ropes.) Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Jeremiah 38:13 from the teacher's Bible.

**What did Jeremiah do when the Lord sent Him to give His message? (He obeyed the Lord.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Obey the Lord."** Include the sign language or hand motions.



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. Tape Jeremiah onto 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.)
- **What was in the bottom of the well?** (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.)
- **That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Together, say the Whisper Verse with the hand motions.

# 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 brown cloth or crumbled brown paper as mud behind a bookshelf, half wall, or small table "well."

### **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 Jeremiah's friend and the men. They stand near the king.
4. **Oh no! They have put Jeremiah in the muddy well! The Lord will send some people 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. **The Lord has a message for the king. Jeremiah, can you tell the king the message?**
7. Jeremiah walks to the king and says the Whisper Verse, "Obey the Lord," with the hand motions.
8. Play again, allowing other children to play the parts of 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 in the kitchen. When Mom says, "Don't touch the hot stove. 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 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 motions to the Whisper Verse: "Obey the Lord."
  - **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.**



## **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 Well" craft. Tell someone the Lord God sent Jeremiah's friend and the thirty men to save him from the well.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about different ways you can obey the Lord.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "Jeremiah in the Well." 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 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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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."** (Whisper Verse sign language.)



### **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. Send the puppets home with the children after today's lesson.



## 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!** Read Jeremiah 38:5-14, 17, 20 with your family. Some men did not want to listen to Jeremiah's message from the Lord. Where did they put Jeremiah? How did his friend and the thirty men pull him out of the well? Did he obey and give the Lord's message to 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!** "Listen and Obey!" Choose one person to give a command. He or she whispers a name and something for that person to do (such as hop or touch your nose). The person must be listening very closely to know how to obey. Take turns being the one to give a command. After you play, talk about why you must listen and obey the Lord. Where can you find the Lord's instructions?

### Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse:

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