

Adventures with GOD!

THE WORD OF GOD SPOKEN BY PROPHETS (C.3.SPRING.4)

Biblical Reference	Jeremiah 1:1-19
Key Verse	Jeremiah 1:9
Key Concept	Just as the prophets spoke God's word, I too can share God's word with others.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain how the people decided against following God's commandments and what happened as a result 2. Describe the role of the prophets 3. Discover ways they can share God's word with others right where they are

Life Application

God is patient and finds ways to convey love to humanity. Unfortunately, God's people kept making bad choices, and instead of obeying the Ten Commandments, they turned to other gods. So God spoke to the people in another way, through the prophets. People would listen for a while, but would eventually turn away. The same is true today. God speaks to people in many ways, and too many times, we decide not to listen. Children will have the opportunity to reflect on how God might be calling them to share God's word with others.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Review		5 minutes
Learning Centers		15 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, names, illustrations	10 minutes
Activity	Modeling clay, paper, pens	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that we read the Bible first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Jeremiah 1:4-9 twice and ask children to respond.

Question Examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

Review: Review the ways children have seen God communicating with people. How do we know God's word? In what ways have we discovered that God communicates with us?

Learning Centers: In the Learning Centers, children will reflect on the ways that God chose specific people to speak on God's behalf. Have the materials and instructions ready to go at each center. Explain to them that they will have the opportunity to choose which Learning Center to go to. When they have finished at their Learning Center's, invite them to all come together and sit in a circle.

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Bible Exploration: Begin by talking about how God clearly spoke to the people by giving them the Ten Commandments. Explain that while God's people would obey the commandments for a while, they would end up making the choice to disobey God. But, God's patience and love for God's people was infinite, and God found other ways to communicate with them. The prophets were people that spoke on behalf of God, communicating what God gave them to tell the people.

In their Bibles, children will find names of some of the prophets. Ask children to share about the prophets they are familiar with. Explain that many of the books of the Old Testament were named after the prophets and contain the words of the prophet to the people. It's fascinating to see how God spoke to the people through these prophets. Did they always have nice things to say to the people? Many times the prophets' messages were one of calling the people back to God, and some had pretty harsh criticism of how the people were acting. Take this opportunity to talk about how in the Bible the books of prophecy are categorized in two groups, the Major Prophets and the Minor Prophets.

The book of Jeremiah belongs in the group of the Major Prophets. In this book, we read an interesting story of how God speaks to Jeremiah in preparation to speak to the people. It is found in Jeremiah 18:1-12. Choose volunteers to help act it out, as you narrate. After the drama has been acted out, reflect on the story together. What is the role of Jeremiah in the story? What does God ask of Jeremiah? How does Jeremiah respond? Why is God so upset with his people? What is the message Jeremiah will give to the people? Does God want people to repent today? How? How can we be messengers of God's love and desire to forgive and restore people? Read and memorize the Key Verse together.

Activity: Each child will make his or her own clay pot, and will write the Key Verse on a small piece of paper that can be rolled up and put into the pot. See instructions on page 11.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G= God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories

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of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W=Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle, explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, the candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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CENTER OF INVESTIGATION

This Learning Center will explore the names of the prophets God called to proclaim God's word to Israel.

Instructions:

1. Unscramble the letters to uncover the names of the prophets, found on page 6. If you have problems unscrambling the letters, you can find the names in the index of your Bible.
2. Read Jeremiah 1:1-19 and describe how God called Jeremiah.
3. Read Isaiah 6:1-13 and describe how God called Isaiah.
4. Answer the following questions: Are there still prophets today? Are they called prophets? What is their ministry?

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UNSCRAMBLE THE NAMES

LIEDAN _____

SIAIHA _____

M SOA _____

HASOE _____

LOEJ _____

ILAACHM _____

IHAAGG _____

ZCHERAAIH _____

UHMAN _____

KHKAKBUKA _____

IHZHPANH _____

HMICA _____

JNAOH _____

HAIDABO _____

EKIELZE _____

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CENTER OF EXPERIMENTS

Materials: Bibles, paper, markers, pens, old magazines, glue, scissors

1. Read Jeremiah 1:1-19
2. Make a list of the responsibilities God gave the prophet Jeremiah.
3. Read Jeremiah 2:1-9. What are the words that God gave Jeremiah? Why is God upset with the people? How do you think the people responded to Jeremiah?
4. Now decipher the hidden phrase using the symbols below. How does Jeremiah demonstrate for us the role of a prophet?

KEY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
Y	Z	.									

MESSAGE

1:9

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CENTER OF APPLICATION

The New Testament also speaks of prophets and prophecies. These prophets continue to speak on God's behalf, always pointing to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Instructions:

1. Read Jeremiah 1:1-19. What was the role of the prophet?
2. Read Revelation 1:1-3. What was the role of John as prophet? What promise is found in these verses?
3. On a big sheet of paper, make a list of how God continues to speak to us through the prophets of the Bible. What is our responsibility once we know God's word and have it hidden in our hearts?
4. Together make an illustration for the mural.

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ILLUSTRATION



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ACTIVITY

To serve as a reminder of the story of Jeremiah and the clay pot, children will each make a clay pot. Children can put the Key Verse inside the clay pot on a small piece of paper.

1. Give each child a small piece of modeling clay.
2. Have children roll the modeling clay into a ball. Using their thumbs, children can make an indent in the top of the round ball. To make the clay into more of a base, children can make a hole in the center and roll the clay so that it is longer, like a vase.
3. When the pot/vase is ready, have children write the Key Verse on a small piece of paper, roll up the piece of paper, and place it in the pot/vase.

