

The Call of Jeremiah

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PLEASE NOTE!

The visuals for this lesson can be purchased from most CEF offices and online shops. For a list of CEF offices and online shops in Europe, please visit www.teachkids.eu and click on "Locations".

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Introduction

Make yourself available for counselling

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not at a later date tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say.

As you teach the saved children, there may be times when they would like advice in a difficult situation; they may need clarification on how a particular lesson applies to their daily lives; they may find themselves in a situation where they do not know what the Bible says they should do; they may want to share a difficulty so that you can pray for them, especially if you are the only Christian support they have.

For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

An example for use with the unsaved child

“Do you really want to live for the Lord Jesus, but don’t know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I’ll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can’t take away your sin - only the Lord Jesus can do that - but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under that tree.”

An example for use with the saved child

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you have never told me about it, please let me know. I’ll be standing beside the piano after the meeting is finished. I would like to know if you too have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, so that I can pray for you and perhaps help you.”

Practise using the visuals

It is wise to practise using the visuals before teaching the lesson to children. Become thoroughly familiar with the flashcards and know when you need to use them in the lesson.

Extra visual aids

On a piece of card print out the words of the central truth for each lesson. If you are using a flannelboard, back the card with flannel or pieces of flocked paper. (Use lower case letters, so that even the younger ones can read the words easily.) Put this card on the board at the beginning of the class or when you first teach the central truth in the lesson.

Review questions

Some review questions are given which can be used after the lesson.

Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught, while still being fun for the children. You can use this time ...

- 1 to find out how much the children are understanding and remembering.
- 2 to help you as a teacher to know what you need to emphasise more so that the children will remember better.
- 3 to provide a time of fun in the class. The children like competition and look forward to this part of the programme. But it is more than just a game: it is a time of learning.

In this textbook only questions on the lesson are included. It would be profitable to include questions also on the songs, verse and whatever else you teach. In this way the children realise that every part of the programme is important.

The Call of Jeremiah

Scripture for teachers

Jeremiah 1

Romans 10:13

Psalms 119:105

Colossians 3:15

Matthew 28:19-20

Special emphasis

God has a plan for your life

Application

Unsaved: Put your trust in Jesus and ask Him to show you His plan for you

Saved: Ask God to show you His plan and to give you strength to follow it

Memory verse

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” Psalms 119:105

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10
- ◆ In the text a mention is made of each child receiving a Gospel tract. If you want to follow this idea, have tracts available. A selection of tracts for children are produced by European Child Evangelism Fellowship® and are available from your CEF® National Office. If you need an address, contact the European Headquarters (address at the front of this book).

Lesson outline

Introduction

Do you have a hero?

Progression of events

- 1 Jeremiah, God’s prophet
- 2 God calls Jeremiah
- 3 God wants us to be saved
- 4 How to be saved (using the illustration of being saved from drowning)
- 5 God’s promise to Jeremiah
- 6 Saved to be His witnesses
- 7 God touches Jeremiah’s mouth
- 8 Serving the Lord in a special way
- 9 A sign from God
- 10 A boiling pot

Climax

Jeremiah the faithful messenger

Conclusion

The Lord’s promise for those who witness for Him today

Lesson

★ Introduction: Do you have a hero?

Do you have a hero whom you admire? Perhaps a famous sportsman or athlete? Or a popular singer or film star? Do you envy them? Everything seems to go so well for them. They succeed in life. They seem to have an easy life.



Flashcard 1

★ Progression of events: Jeremiah, God's prophet

The Bible presents a different kind of hero, like Jeremiah, for example. Here is a man who did not have an easy life. Because he wanted to tell God's truth to his people, they made fun of him, they hurt him, they put him in prison and wanted to kill him. But Jeremiah remained faithful to God. He prayed for his people and even wept because of their sin. That is why they called him "the weeping prophet" (from Lamentations 1:16 and 2:11).

Jeremiah did not seem cut out to be a hero. He was timid and did not feel he had great gifts. His parents called him Jeremiah, which means "God is sovereign". God is far greater than everyone and everything. They must have taught Jeremiah about God when he was a child. In any case, he put his trust in God.

Flashcard 2

★ Progression of events: God calls Jeremiah

He was still a young man when God said to him, "I knew you even before you were formed in the womb of your mother; I set you apart to serve Me even before you were born. I have chosen you to be My prophet to the nations" (from Jeremiah 1:5). God called Jeremiah to be His messenger. He had decided to do that a long time before.

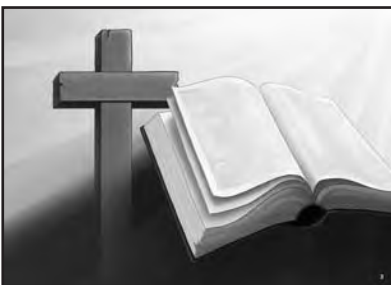
Do you know that God has a plan for each one of us? It is a wonderful plan for each individual life.



Flashcard 3

★ Progression of events: God wants us to be saved

What is the first thing that God wants for us? That we be saved from our sin. That is the most important thing in the world. In the Bible God has told us what is right and good. He knows what is best and His Word is always true, even though men change. Each one of us disobeys God very often, and we do what is wrong. This sin separates us from God. Jesus Christ alone can forgive us, for He died on the cross for us and rose again. That is why God calls each one here today to put his trust in Christ. What does it mean to put your trust in Christ?



Flashcard 4

★ **Progression of events: How to be saved (using the illustration of being saved from drowning)**

Imagine that one of you was to fall into a lake and you do not know how to swim. You are sinking. You are going to drown. Then you see a lifeguard on the bank who can rescue you. What do you do? You call out to him for help. "Help! Save me!"

Because of the wrong things we have done, we are in danger and sinking - not into the water but deeper into sin, with all the punishment it deserves. We are lost, separated from God, and we deserve to be punished for ever.

The lifeguard can save us from drowning. Only the Lord Jesus can save us from the punishment for our sin. What must we do? Like with the lifeguard, we must call out to the Lord for help. We must call upon Him. And what does the Lord Jesus do then? He saves us from the punishment of our sin. The Bible says, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). When we ask the Lord to save us, He comes to our rescue. He forgives our sin and takes control of our life. Have you asked Christ to save you from your sin? It is the most important thing in the world.

Flashcard 2 (again)

★ **Progression of events: God's promise to Jeremiah**

God called Jeremiah to do a very special job for Him. But what was the answer of Jeremiah? He answered, "Ah, Lord God! ... I cannot speak, for I am a youth" (Jeremiah 1:6). Jeremiah was young and he felt incapable. He said, "I am too young for such an important work. I do not even speak correctly."

But God had a perfect plan for his life and He said to him, "Do not say, 'I am a youth.' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid ... for I am with you to deliver you" (Jeremiah 1:7-8).

God promised to be with him to help him.

Flashcard 5

★ **Progression of events: Saved to be His witnesses**

If you have put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, God gives you a work to do. He asks you to be His witness - to show and tell to others Who He is and what He has done. We are to be His witnesses where He has placed us - at home, at school, at play.

What do you think of being a witness for Christ? Do you say like Jeremiah, "Ah, Lord God! ... I cannot speak, for I am a youth"? All of us feel incapable, but the Lord tells us, if we are His children, "Do not be afraid ... for I am with you." And if the Lord tells us that we are not to fear, there is really no reason to be afraid.



Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



Read Jeremiah 1:5-6 from your Bible.

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I have brought some children's tracts. On the way out you are all going to receive one. If you have not yet asked the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Saviour, the message is for you. Keep the tract, read it and think about what it says. But if you have already received Christ, you can give this tract to someone else this week - someone who needs the Saviour and who does not come to the meetings. Perhaps that frightens you. Do not forget the Lord's promise, "Do not be afraid ... for I am with you" (Jeremiah 1:8). To whom are you going to give your tract this week? God has a plan for your life, to be a witness for Him there where He has placed you, among your friends.

Flashcard 6

★ **Progression of events: God touches Jeremiah's mouth**

The Lord gave a promise to Jeremiah, but He did something more. The Bible says that the Lord reached out and touched his mouth (Jeremiah 1:9). Imagine what it must have meant to Jeremiah. God was giving him all the strength he needed to speak. In fact God provided everything that he needed to be His messenger.

I think of another true story which happened not too long ago. It is about a young man whom the Lord was leading to go to France as a missionary. He said to the Lord, "But I don't speak French; I don't have the money to do that; I am not a preacher." But the Lord showed him that he should say "yes" and that He would take care of the rest. First of all God led him to do his studies in a Bible Institute in France. He studied for three years in the French language. It was not easy but he now speaks French - with an Irish accent! He had said that he did not have the money needed. You cannot live long on fresh air and water. But each month, when the room and board had to be paid at the Bible Institute, the Lord provided the money needed. The Lord continues to provide month by month, as he serves as a missionary. He had said to the Lord, "I am not a preacher." He is not a great preacher, but the Lord helps him to preach the Gospel for Him. God is faithful. God helped Jeremiah to fulfil His plan for his life. He will help you as well.

Flashcard 7

★ **Progression of events: Serving the Lord in a special way**

It may be that God will call some of you who are trusting in Christ to serve Him one day in a special way - perhaps teaching a group of children or leading a youth group. God may even call one of you to be a missionary, a pastor or an evangelist. If the Lord calls you to do something like that, will you say to Him, "Yes, Lord"? God has a perfect plan for your life. Our duty is to learn what that plan is and to follow it by His strength. Ask the Lord to lead you in His plan for you.

How can you know what the Lord wants for you? First of all through the Word of God. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). Through reading the Bible you will know what God's will is. But the Bible also says, "Let the peace of God rule



Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

in your hearts” (Colossians 3:15). We have the peace of God in our hearts, when we do His will. But if we are doing what is contrary to the will of God, we lose this peace. God has given us His Word to read and His peace in our hearts. God can also use the good advice of other believers, who have more experience in the Christian life, to help us. It is good then to speak with a Christian leader, if you feel called to a special service for the Lord.

God wanted Jeremiah to understand what exactly he was going to do. So He showed him two things. Jeremiah was never going to forget them.

Flashcard 8

★ **Progression of events: A sign from God**

First God showed him the branch of an almond tree. Why the branch of an almond tree? Because the almond tree is the first tree to blossom in the year. In Israel you can see the almond blossoms already in the month of January. In this way God was saying to Jeremiah that, as the almond tree is quick to blossom, He will be quick to act to punish sin and to save those who turn to Him. He will keep His promises.

Jeremiah said, “I see a branch of an almond tree” (Jeremiah 1:11).

And the Lord said to him, “You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My Word” (Jeremiah 1:12).

From then on each time that Jeremiah saw the branch of an almond tree blossom, he remembered that God keeps His promises. When Jeremiah was going to preach the Word of God to the people, he could know that everything would be fulfilled according to this Word. It is true. God is quick to keep His Word. Each time you see a tree blossom in the spring, remember that God keeps His promises.

Flashcard 9

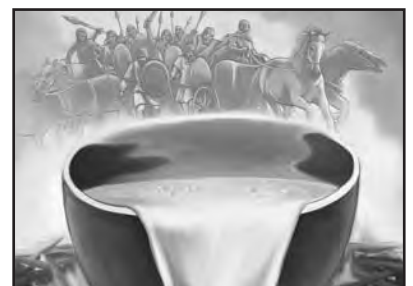
★ **Progression of events: A boiling pot**

But God showed something more to Jeremiah. God asked him, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” (from Jeremiah 1:13).

Jeremiah looked carefully and answered, “I see a boiling pot; it is facing away from the north” (Jeremiah 1:13).

Jeremiah saw this big pot on the crackling fire. As he watched, the soup in the pot began to boil and the burning hot liquid spilled over. So why this vision of a boiling pot?

God explained it to Jeremiah. “In the same way an enemy will come from the north and invade the country and a great disaster will be poured out on all who live in Jerusalem and in Judah. Jeremiah, you must warn the people - if they continue to do wrong, they will be punished severely. But if the people turn away from their idols and false gods and follow the true God, they will be saved. If the people do not listen, the enemy will come, it is sure” (from Jeremiah 1:14-18).



Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Make yourself available for personal counselling. (Be sure to comply with the Child Protection Policy of your country.)



Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



If you are here today without Jesus Christ in your life, it is very important to turn to Him to be saved. He loves you. He wants to forgive your sin and to give you new life. Remember, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

You need to ask the Lord Jesus to come into your life, and He promises to save you. If you want to do that today and you do not know exactly how to do it, I am going to ask you to come to see me at the end of the meeting. You can come and sit here in the front row on one of these seats. If I see you there after the meeting I will know that you want to ask Christ to come into your life, and I will explain to you what you need to do and what the Lord promises to do.

Every time you see a saucepan with boiling water, remember God’s message to Jeremiah - God punishes sin, but He wants to save us.

Flashcard 10

★ **Climax:** Jeremiah the faithful messenger

Jeremiah was told to warn the people about their sin. It was a difficult message to bring, for the people were not going to appreciate it. They would think that Jeremiah was a traitor, because he spoke about the victory of their enemies over them. Because of that they were going to hurt him, they were going to put him in prison and they were going to try to put him to death. Jeremiah preached this message from God for forty years, to give the people the opportunity to turn to God. It was a long time and it was difficult.

God has never said that His plan for our life will be easy. Life is not a “bed of roses”. If we obey God, the people around us will make fun of us and even hurt us. They do not like us to be different from them and they do not always want to accept what the Bible says. The Bible tells us what God said finally to Jeremiah, when He called him to be His prophet. God said, “They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you ... to deliver you” (Jeremiah 1:19). God had already given him that promise at the beginning, “I am with you ... to deliver you” (Jeremiah 1:8).

Flashcard 5 (again)

★ **Conclusion:** The Lord’s promise for those who witness for Him today

Six hundred years later the Lord Jesus said to His disciples, “Go ... and make disciples of all nations ... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20). This command is also for us who are followers of the Lord Jesus today . What is God’s place for you in His plan to bring the Good News to the world? God has a plan and God has a place for every Christian in that plan. Our duty is to find our place and to fill it - whether it be as a witness for Christ where He has placed us, or as a missionary in another country. There is no place more safe and more wonderful in the world, than to be in the centre of God’s will. Remember what God said to Jeremiah, “I have set you

apart to serve Me ... you are to go to everyone I send you to ... I am with you to deliver you” (from Jeremiah 1:5-8).

God kept His promise to Jeremiah and He will do it also for us, if we know Him as our Lord and Saviour and if we are following His plan for our life. What a joy it is to do the will of God and to know that He is with us to deliver us! Jeremiah remained faithful to the end. What about you and me?

Review questions

Instead of a quiz, you could use some of these questions to have a discussion time with the children about Jeremiah's life, seeking God's will today, God's faithfulness to those who desire to follow and serve Him.

- 1 What made Jeremiah cry? (The people's sin.)
- 2 Why did people treat him badly at times? (Because he told God's truth to the people.)
- 3 What is the first thing that God wants us to do? (Ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins.)
- 4 Why did God touch Jeremiah's mouth? (To show him that He would give him the strength to speak.)
- 5 How can you know what God wants you to do for Him? (Through His Word, prayer, the advice of other believers.)
- 6 In what month does the almond tree already start to blossom? (January.)
- 7 What was the meaning of the vision of the boiling pot which spilled over? (An enemy would invade the country and a great disaster would be poured out on the people in Jerusalem.)
- 8 Why do people sometimes make fun of Christians? (They do not like us being different; they do not always want to accept what the Bible says.)
- 9 How many years did Jeremiah preach God's message? (40 years.)
- 10 Who can say today's memory verse and Bible reference by heart? ("Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" Psalm 119:105.)

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our Heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).