



JEREMIAH 1

JEREMIAH'S CALL

Scripture: Jeremiah 1

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Large plastic tarp or tote filled with sand. Sandcastle supplies (buckets, shovels, etc), pot of boiling water, craft at the end of the lesson, almond tree picture.

Explain:

Today we are going to begin studying a new book of the Bible. We just finished Galatians in the New Testament, now we'll head back to the Old Testament. The Old Testament has several types of genres. Does anyone know what a genre is? (A type of literature). So we may read fiction, non-fiction, fantasy, and so on. Well, the Bible has Genres, too. The Old Testament contains the books of the Law (like Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), History (like 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings and so on), Wisdom (like the Psalms and Proverbs), and Prophecy (like the Minor Prophets we studied, and Isaiah and so on). We are going to study Jeremiah. Does anyone want to take a guess at the genre of Jeremiah? (Prophecy).

Background:

Because we're starting a new book, we need to talk a little bit about it. We need to understand the who, what, where, when, and why. So let's take a look.

Who: Jeremiah was a priest that lived 4 miles north of Jerusalem.

What: He spoke of repentance, judgment, and restoration

Where: Jeremiah prophesied to the people of Judah in the southern kingdom, particularly the capital of Jerusalem.

When: He prophesied during the reign of Josiah and through the kings after until the exile of Judah (626-580 BC).

Why: Josiah was the boy king who found the law and tried to make reforms. He was successful- for a little while. But no matter how he tried, the people's hearts were hard and they never fully turned to God. Jeremiah came during this time, regularly prophesying to the people that they needed to repent or face destruction from the superpowers of the day: Assyria, Egypt, and Babylon.

Do an Activity:

To get the kids moving after all that information, have them get up and play in the sand. Ask the kids to build a city, because we need it for a visual for the story. Allow them time to build sandcastles.

Explain:

We'll come back to this in a minute, but now we're going to learn how God called Jeremiah.

Read: Jeremiah 1:1-10

Explain:

God called Jeremiah. He knew him from before he was born, and guess what? He knew you before you were born, too.

Ask:

How did Jeremiah respond to God's call? (He felt like he was too young.)

Have you ever felt too young to do something?

Have you ever felt scared to do something God wanted you to do? (Allow for answers, also feel free to share a time you were scared to do what God called you to do.)

Isn't it amazing that God knows Jeremiah's fears and weaknesses, but calls him anyway? And he tells Jeremiah that he'll be with him.

Active Reading:

While reading these next verses, act them out and have the kids answer like Jeremiah. (For example, show them the picture of the almond tree when asking what you see. Then, walk over to the sand castles with the boiling pot of water. When verse 14 reads about disaster being poured out, pour the boiling water over their city of sand.)

Read: Jeremiah 1:11-16

Ask:

Do you think that message would be very fun for the people of Judah to hear? (No)

Would you be afraid to bring that kind of bad news to people? (Allow for answers). I think Jeremiah was, too. So listen to what God says to him next:

Read: Jeremiah 1:17-19

Do a Craft:

Print out the picture of a face and have the kids each color one. After, cut a slit near the mouth. Then, create a roll of paper and write the memory verse on it (Jeremiah 1:9-10). If writing is hard, have them write "I will put my words in your mouth." Then slide the paper through the mouth so they can pull it in and out.

Option: Play a Game

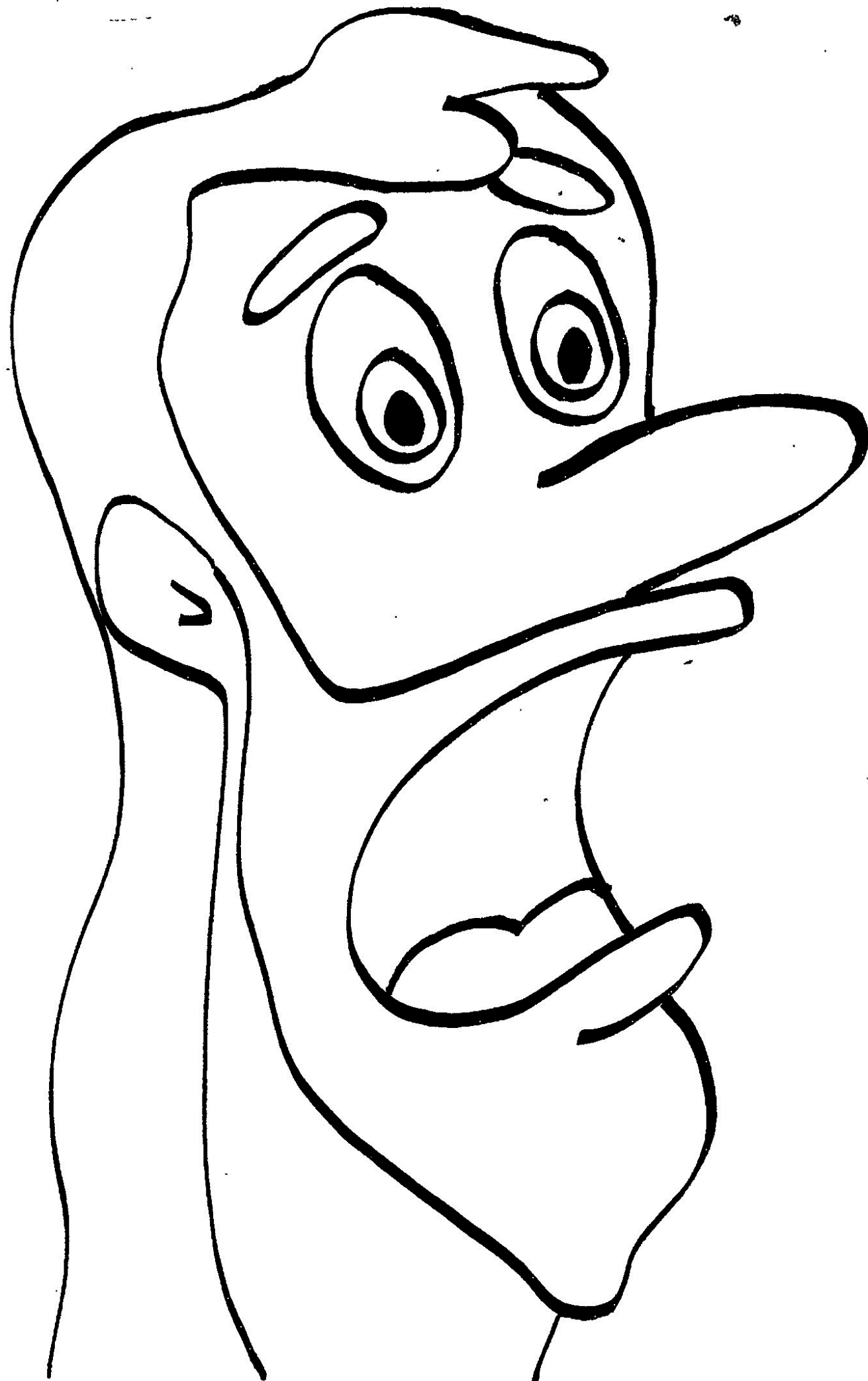
You can also turn this into a game. Instead of the craft, make a "face" on the ground, with big construction paper eyes and a bucket or laundry basket for the mouth. Then, have balloons scattered across the floor with the memory verse (one word on each balloon). The kids must put the verse in order and then run to put the balloons in Jeremiah's mouth.

Explain:

God called Jeremiah to a very hard task, but God promises not to leave him and to give him the words to say. Thankfully, when God calls us to something, he takes care of us in it, too. He may not call you to prophesy to nations, but he could call you to befriend someone who is lonely, or help someone in need. Whatever he calls you to, he will help you and give you what you need to do it. This doesn't mean it will be easy, but it does mean that God will be with you, even in the hardship.

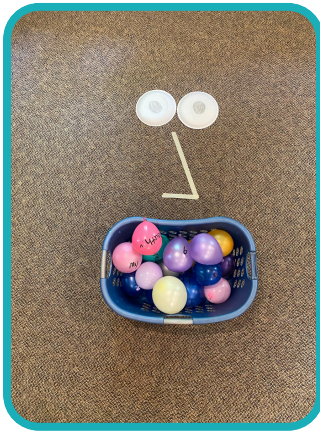
Memorize: Jeremiah 1:9-10**Close in Prayer**

You can add Jeremiah to our timeline. He was known as the weeping prophet because of his passionate appeals and his sorrow on behalf of Israel. He prophesied 626-586.





Source: <https://www.gardenia.net/plant/prunus-dulcis>



**Our "Jeremiah face"
for the game.**



**Our city destroyed
by the boiling pot.**

**Our completed
craft**

