



JEREMIAH 2

BROKEN CISTERNS

Scripture: Jeremiah 2

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: 4 buckets, 4 paper/plastic cups, 2 with holes in them

Ask:

Who remembers what book we began to study last week? (Jeremiah)
What do you remember of Jeremiah's call? (God showed him a city being destroyed with boiling water and an almond tree. God told Jeremiah he would put his words in his mouth).

Today, we're going to continue in Jeremiah.

Background:

Remember that Jeremiah was prophesying before and during the exiles to Babylon. He prophesied during the reign of five different kings of Judah. His message was similar to the messages of the Minor Prophets- that the people needed to turn from their idolatry and serve God alone.

Read: Jeremiah 2:1-7, 13

Ask:

What is God's complaint against his people? (They have forsaken him and dug their own cisterns).

Have you ever tried to create a moat or trench around a sandcastle at the beach? Then have you filled your moat or trench with water? What happens? (The water fills up, then soaks into the sand).

God is telling the people of Judah that they are digging their own cisterns that don't hold any water. (A cistern could be hewed out of rock or sand in an attempt to catch rainwater or hold water they drew from a well. However, their cisterns were broken.

Explain:

God tells the people that he is the spring of living water (Jesus also calls himself the living water in the New Testament, another proof that he is God). We need water to live. We can go a while without food, but not very long without water. God wants his people to remember that they need him. We do too. He is who sustains us, helps us, and keeps us. We cannot do anything without God. But often times, we do what the Israelites did. We try to dig our own cisterns and hold our own water. We try to control things and store up for ourselves our treasures with our own work and hands. Instead of going again and again to the living water for a drink, we try to find our own water and cling to it as if it will help us and save us. God calls us from that. He is what we need, nothing else can satisfy. It all seeps away or dries up.

Play a Game:

Having holes punched into paper cups, have the kids stand in two lines. For each line, have a full bucket at one end and an empty bucket at the other. Starting at the full end, have the kids fill the cups with holes in them and pass them down the line to the empty bucket. The last person in the line will dump what is left into the empty bucket, then race to the full bucket and start over. Go until the bucket overflows. Whoever gets there first wins.

Try the game again with cups without holes in it. Notice the difference!

Main Point:

It's obvious that cups with holes in them don't work, but we often fail to recognize just how much our own broken cisterns don't work. Anything we try to run to that isn't God will disappoint us at some point or fail to fill us. Only God satisfies our every need. This week, think about what cisterns you've built. Are you trying to let something fill you that isn't God? It's okay to do things and enjoy life. It's okay to play with friends or go to activities. We just have to realize that, at the end of the day, those things can't fill us or complete us. When we remember that, we'll remember to go to the spring of Living Water that never runs dry.

Memorize: Jeremiah 2:13

Close in Prayer