



## JEREMIAH 5-6

# IDOLATRY: THE SERIOUS WOUND

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 5:20-31, 6:10, 13-14, 16

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Ear plugs, balloons or marbles (one of one color and several of different colors), blindfold, Operation game or homemade Operation game with the dollar store tea lights, foil, tweezers, and printout (optional).

### Ask:

Who can tell me what we learned about last week? (Israel was placing their trust in broken cisterns.)

One of the biggest issues that God's people had was their breaking of the first commandment: to have no other gods before God. We're going to talk about their sin today, about Jeremiah's message, and about the leader's messages to the people.

### Background:

Here it is helpful for the kids to have a decent understanding of what was going on in Israel during the time of most of the prophets of the Old Testament. You can also use the printout of the map, have the kids tear it in half, and then crumple up the northern kingdom when you say and the southern kingdom when you say that part (to give them active listening). You could summarize with something like this:

"After King Solomon (the son of David), the Kingdom of Israel split in two. The North was still called Israel, and the South was called Judah. Both these kingdoms had their own kings, and both committed great sins against God and his commands. Because of their disobedience, God sent prophets (people who speak his messages or tell of future events) to turn the people back to him. God gave them warning after warning, but the people had hard hearts and refused to repent, so God scattered his people. The northern kingdom was destroyed first by the Assyrian army in 922, then the southern kingdom was exiled to Babylon for 70 years beginning in 587.

Jeremiah is prophesying between both exiles, around 626-585. That means the people of Judah saw what happened to the people of Israel, but they still refuse to repent. In chapter 3 of Jeremiah, God wo They still refuse to go to the well of Living Water, instead they put their hope in broken cisterns- the false gods of the people around them. Let's see what God has to say through Jeremiah to them."

**Read:** Jeremiah 5:20–31, 6:10, 13–14

**Ask:**

What are some of the sins mentioned? (The people don't give God credit, they lay traps for people, they are full of deceit, and they don't care for the fatherless and poor. Finally, their prophets prophesy lies.)

How does God feel about these sins? (He is grieved by them and, because he is just, sin must be punished.)

**Play Games:**

**Game #1**

We're going to play three games to remember these sins. First, the people closed their ears to the voice of God. We're going to play a game with ear plugs. (If you don't have ear plugs, you can simply mouth the words while others plug their ears and see if the kids can figure them out). Have the students divide into pairs or small groups. One student will place ear plugs in their ears and the others will whisper a word and see if the student with plugged ears can figure it out. If they want to make it harder, try a short sentence. Then have the students switch so all get a turn with the earplugs.

**Explain:** When we stop up our ears to God's voice, we miss out on hearing from him. When we don't listen to God, we aren't corrected or directed. (It may be helpful to explain that God's voice is rarely an audible voice, it is more like a nudge to do something, or feeling bad when you do something wrong, this is conviction.)

**Game #2:**

Next, have the kids wear a blindfold. You can use a jar of marbles, balloons, even pieces of construction paper for this game. Whatever you use, you simply need a lot of one color and one of another (i.e. 15 red balloons and 1 blue balloon).

With a blindfold on, have the kids try to pick the "sin" out of the pile.

**Explain:** When we are blind to the truth, it is hard to see the sin in our lives.

**Game #3:**

Play either a homemade Operation style game (directions at the end of the lesson), or if you have the game Operation, bring it in and have the kids play it to treat the serious wound of the man.

**Explain:** Sin is serious. Sometimes we can convince ourselves that a little sin won't hurt. Or a little white lie is okay. This is what the Israelites were doing. They acted as though worshiping these other gods wasn't THAT big of a deal. They were treating a serious wound with a bandage. If you had a broken bone, a bandage wouldn't really help, would it? No! A broken bone is serious and needs to be treated! Sin is serious, too. When we act like it isn't, we become blind and deaf to the voice of God, and begin to slide down the slippery slope of sin. Thankfully, we don't have to stay blind and deaf to God's Word.

**Read:** Jeremiah 6:16

**Explain:**

God offers us wisdom. He longs to guide us when we're confused and don't know which way to go. He knows that we are often blind and deaf, so he lets us call on him. If you feel like you're struggling to not sin, ask God for wisdom. If you ever don't know what you should do in a situation, ask God for wisdom. Then, follow what he says. Maybe he prompts you to stand up for someone or reach out to someone who doesn't have many friends. Maybe he puts it on your heart to take a break from video games or the internet. Maybe he encourages you to read your Bible more or ask people questions to better understand him. We serve a God who doesn't leave us. He longs to help and guide us. We don't have to be blind and deaf to our sin. We can treat it like it is serious and repent. Repent means to turn around and go the other way. We can repent of our sin with the power of Jesus working in us. Thankfully, through Jesus' death on the cross, he offers forgiveness for sins. He paid the price of sin and took the punishment we deserve upon himself. The Israelites in the time of Jeremiah faced exile for their sins. We can receive forgiveness from God through the death of Jesus when we confess our sins and confess him as Lord. So ask him today for the ancient paths and walk in them-- and you'll find rest for your soul.

**Memorize:** Jeremiah 6:16

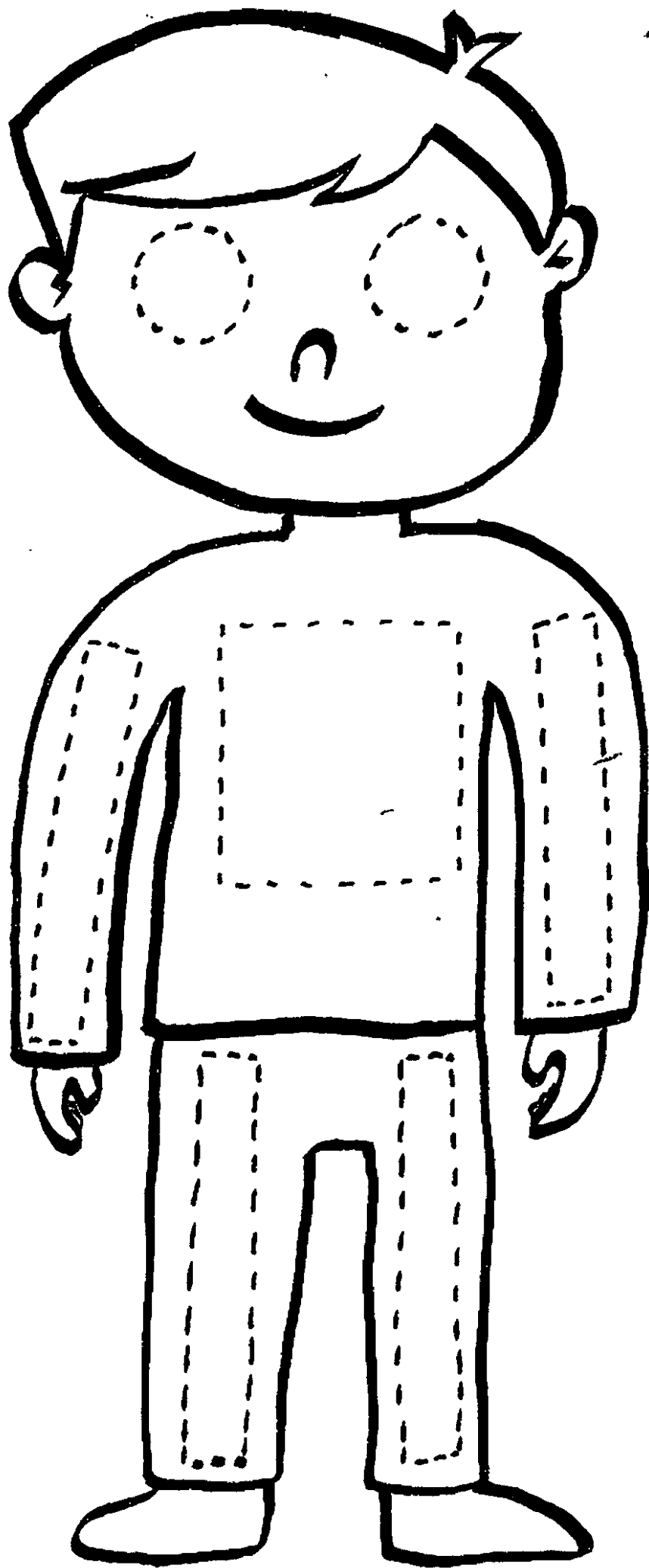
**Close in Prayer**

**Homemade Operation Game:**

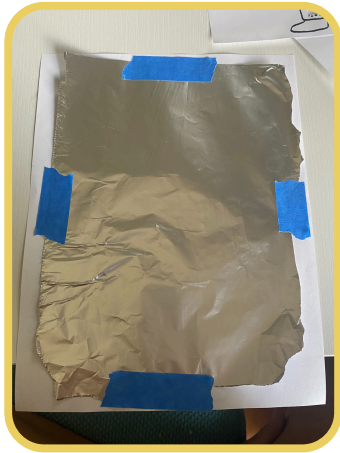
To make a homemade Operation game, you will need the printout below, aluminum foil, toothpicks, googly eyes, metal tweezers, foam heart cut outs, and a battery powered tea light (all of this can come from a dollar store).

After printing the boy, cut out the rectangles using the dotted lines as a guide to cut. Tape foil to the back of the paper. Fold another piece of foil until it is about ¼ inch thick (this will be our wire). You may need to extend the length of this wire by folding in another long piece of foil. Wrap your foil wire around the tweezers and set aside. For the light, remove the back and run another foil wire through the switch plate, ensuring it wraps around one of the wires to the battery. Run this piece of foil to the foil backing. Then, take the foil attached to the tweezers and hook it up to the other wire in the light. When the tweezers hit the foil, it should complete the circuit, and the light should light up. Once this is done, place your toothpicks and eyes and heart in your patient. See if the kids can grab the pieces with the tweezers. See pictures to follow. If a video is more helpful, this is the one I used at the time of writing this lesson.

<https://www.tiktok.com/@adam.blake89/video/7324846298186648863>



Cut the rectangles and circles out of the paper boy, tape foil to the back.



Connect your homemade foil wires to the tweezers and light wires.



Run the wire attached to the light to the foil behind the picture, add toothpicks, eyes, and a heart. Perform an operation on his serious wound.

