



JEREMIAH 7 BACKWARD, NOT FORWARD

Scripture: Jeremiah 7:2-11, 20-28

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Obstacle course made from things around the room.

Ask:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (Sin being a serious wound). Did anyone allow God to do some operating work on their sin this week? Want to share?

Today, we're going to continue learning about that serious wound that the Israelites were engaging in. Does anyone remember what they were doing that displeased God? (Idolatry or worshiping false gods).

Read: Jeremiah 7:2-11

Explain:

Have you ever met someone who acted one way around some people and another way around others? Sometimes, we as Christians can do this. Around our church friends, we might act one way. But when we are around other friends, we might act totally different, trying to fit into both ways. This is what the Israelites are doing. They are worshiping other gods and offering sacrifices to them. They are living how they want to live. But then, they go to God's temple and act like they're totally devoted to God. God sees right through this. He knows they are trying to live to please themselves while still going into his temple and calling on him, and he isn't pleased. We are called to live for God, no matter who we're talking to or hanging out with. We're called to live according to his Word, no matter the cost, even if it means we don't fit in.

Read: Jeremiah 7:20-28

Explain:

The people forgot God. They forgot how God had saved them from the Egyptians and cared for them in the desert. They forgot how he rescued them and showed mighty miracles. Instead, they turned to other gods. They went backward, not forward. And honestly, when we don't walk in God's commands, we go backwards too.

Play a Game:

Have the kids create an obstacle course with chairs, tables, and items in the room. Ours also included hula hoops, balloons, and pool noodles. Once they have completed their obstacle course, have the kids run through it. Once they have run through it, have them try to go through it backward (holding their hands if they need it). After, ask which was easier, and allow them to talk about their experience.

Explain:

Backwards is never the easiest. And that is how we live when we run after things other than God. When we aren't living by his Word, it's like we're walking backwards. It's easy to get tripped up and bogged down. Don't get me wrong, living for God is full of obstacles, too, but those obstacles are much easier to face when we're walking with him according to his Word.

Ask:

Think back to when you first started learning about God and following him. Is there any space in your life where you feel like you've gone backward? We'll never be perfect, but God longs to change us and shape us to be more and more like him. We're called to grow in our faith and obedience. Let's take some time and ask God how we can go forward in him, rather than backward.

Memorize: Jeremiah 7:23

Close in Prayer