



## JEREMIAH 11

# THE PLOT AGAINST JEREMIAH

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 11:18–23, Ephesians 6:10–17

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

**Main Takeaway:** Following God's call doesn't mean you won't have trials, but he gives us armor.

**Supplies:** 2x4 (or a balance beam), wadded paper balls (or squishy foam balls), printouts from the end of the lesson, cardboard boxes, string, toilet paper rolls, etc.

### Ask:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (How the people of Israel had gone backward and not forward. They were still worshipping the false gods like they did in Egypt. And even though God had brought them out and done incredible miracles, they forgot all his blessings.)

Today, we're going to continue on in our study of Jeremiah. In the book, it takes a bit of a turn. It goes from explaining the sin of the people and the disaster to come because of it to a small side note in chapter 11. Just before, God has told Jeremiah to stand before the people and proclaim the tragedy that was about to come. Then we learn about a plot to kill Jeremiah. The way the story is told is a little round about, so we'll read the whole thing and then explain.

**Read:** Jeremiah 11:18–23

### Explain:

In verse 21, we hear about the plot. Why are they trying to kill Jeremiah? (For prophesying in the name of the Lord). We see this also in more figurative language when they talk about cutting down the tree and its fruit, so his name would be remembered no more. Put yourself in Jeremiah's shoes; what would you be feeling? (Allow for answers. Possible answers: anger, revenge, fear)

Jeremiah has committed to the call of God, to speak truth when others won't and to obey even when it feels like everyone is against him. Then he hears that now they want to kill him. I would be terrified. I would be wondering, "God, why would you call me to do this if it's going to be this hard." Can anyone relate to that?

**Play a Game:**

Lay a 2x4 on the ground or a balance beam. Tell the kids their objective is to get from one end to the other without falling. However, their classmates get to throw either paper or foam balls at them to try and knock them off. See if any of them can complete the task. Allow everyone who wants to take a turn to go.

**Explain:**

Jeremiah was given a task by God. He was told what to say and it wasn't easy for the people to hear. Because of this, they wanted to kill him. Just because God calls us to something, doesn't mean it will be easy. It doesn't mean that things will always go our way and that it will all work out perfectly in the end. But it does mean that if God has called us to something, he will not leave us. He will be with us no matter what the outcome is, and we can trust that his plans have a purpose and are perfect. Thankfully, God doesn't leave us alone, but he also doesn't leave us without weapons to fight against the darkness. You see, even though Jeremiah was being mistreated by people, the real enemy, and our real enemy is not flesh and blood but the spiritual realm of darkness. The enemy and his minions want to stop the spreading of the word of God. The spiritual powers of darkness long to trip us up, lead us astray, discourage us, and catch us off balance, a little like our balance beam activity. But God gives us armor. Does anyone know the armor God gives us? (Allow for answers)

**Read:** Ephesians 6:10-17

**Explain:**

No matter what God calls us to do, we can be certain there will be a battle. It won't always be hard, but it certainly won't always be easy, either. Thankfully, God gives us armor like we just read about. We're going to look a little more closely at old Roman armor and see how we can apply it to our spiritual lives.

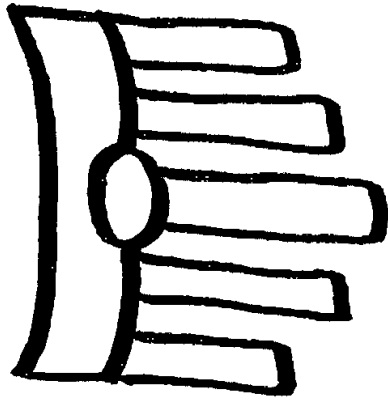
**Craft:**

While I teach you about the old Roman armor, I want you to begin crafting together your own armor from this cardboard and these toilet paper rolls. Get creative and see how closely you can match it to the Roman style of armor listed in Ephesians. Give each of the kids a printout to take home and remember the armor of God.

**Memorize:** Ephesians 6:11

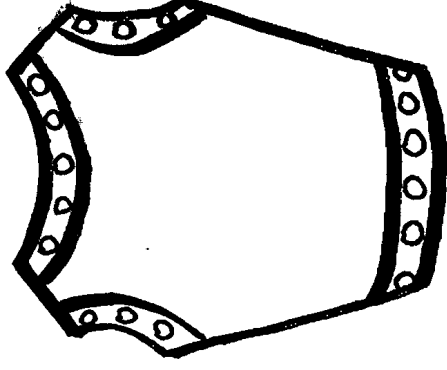
**Close in Prayer**





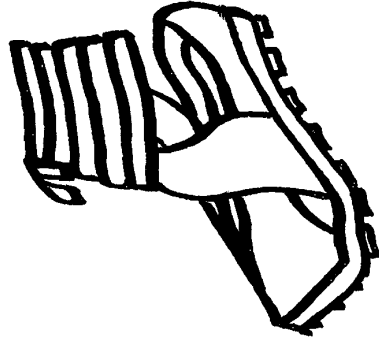
## Belt

This had leather strips hanging from it to protect the lower body. The Belt of truth guards us and holds our armor together.



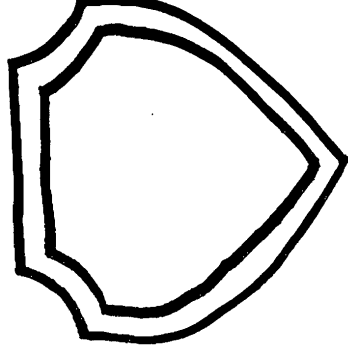
## Breastplate

Made of hard leather or metal, this went all the way around the body, protecting from the front and back. The breastplate of righteousness surrounds us and protects us on all sides from the enemy.



## Shoes

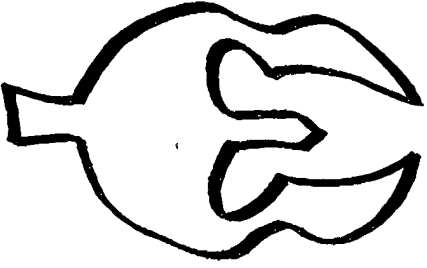
Roman Soldiers wore hard, studded shoes. These would provide a firm foundation and help them to trek long distances. The shoes of peace could either mean that peace gives us a good foundation, or in peace we can take the gospel where God sends us.



## Shield

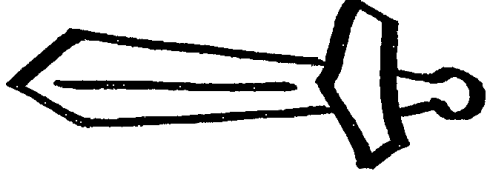
Usually 2.5 x 4 ft, the shield protected from flying objects or an enemy attempting to use a weapon against them. Our faith in the Lord Jesus extinguishes the darts the enemy tries to shoot at us. If you feel like you're getting hit, pray for God to increase your faith.

## Helmet



This protects the head and mind. The head needs to be protected in any battle to survive, and salvation is necessary for us to go into battle. Our salvation comes from Jesus alone, and he guards our minds.

## Sword



This is the only offensive weapon. It both defends and attacks. The Word of God is both offensive and defensive. When his Word is hidden in your heart, you can use that against temptation, fighting back to live for God.