

Old Testament

Lamentations

Lam. 3:22-25; 40-41

Younger Verse

Jesus said “ I am the good shepherd.” John 10:14

Older Verse

Jesus said “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” John 10:14

Teachers: This unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God’s ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Can you remember a time that you cried about something that happened. Most of us have cried and been sad about something. Today’s lesson is about one of God’s messengers that cried. Let’s see why he cried.

Bible Story

Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do NOT read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.

Last week we talked about a man. Do you remember his name (Jeremiah)? What did God ask him to do? (be a prophet). What is a prophet? (person who tells people what God says). Jeremiah wrote the book of Jeremiah in the Bible. He also wrote the book of Lamentations. That word means to cry (pretend you are starting to cry as you say the word). Jeremiah was sad and he cried because God was upset with the people. He was angry because they did not listen to Him and follow Him. This made Jeremiah sad too.

The book of Lamentations is poetry. Have any of you ever written poetry? (maybe for school etc.) In Bible days, poetry was written differently. The poets would repeat ideas instead of sounds, like we do. Also remember, they wrote in a different language, Hebrew, so they read from right to left instead of left to right like we do. (see the Hebrew alphabet in the handouts)

There is something cool about this poetry. Jeremiah uses the first letters of the Hebrew alphabet in chapters 1,2,3, and 4. There are 22 letters in their alphabet. So, there are 22 verses in each chapter—one for each letter of the alphabet. This is called an acrostic. There is one exception. Chapter 3 has 66 verses. This means that Jeremiah writes 3 verses for each letter. Chapter 5 is the only one that does not have the alphabet acrostic.

Lesson Goals

**See that God is faithful
Help people know Jesus and trust Him**

Do you know one of the reasons why people wrote in acrostics? It was to help them memorize the passage of Scripture. Yes, back then students had to memorize lots of the Bible. They did this in SCHOOL! Believe it or not, kids went to school in the church (they called them synagogues). They had to memorize parts of the Bible for tests. They wanted to know the Bible in their hearts because they knew it would help them know God and live right. We can do the same thing when we memorize verses from the Bible!

In chapter 3 of the poem, Jeremiah gives us hope! He reminds us that our hope is in God and God is always faithful. He tells us that God loves us and cares for us. Can you think of a time when someone cared for you? (wait for answers)

Jeremiah also writes that God is good to everyone who puts their hope and trust in Him. He is good to the people who want to follow Him.

Can you name a way that God is good to you and to us? (wait for answers) God was REALLY good to us when He gave us ALL a special gift. Brandi, (name someone in the group) have you opened your gift yet? (wait for response) (Kids will naturally be curious as to the gift that God has given them.) You see, God gave us the gift of Jesus. God gave us His only Son. Jesus died on a cross one Friday. Then on Sunday, three days later, He came back to life. Our gift is Heaven if we trust Jesus and ask Him to come into our lives and clean out all the bad things that are in our hearts.

Just like Jeremiah said, God is good and we have hope because Jesus is alive and died for us! If you would like to know more or ask Jesus into your life, please talk to us about it

Learning Activities

There are several ways to apply the lesson. Look in the Hands-on learning sheet in the teacher's packet.

Memory Verse Activities

Share the verse and help the kids remember it. Do an echo—say a phrase and have them echo it. Continue until they know the verse. Let them think of other ways to memorize—like Jeremiah did!

Prayer Time

Ask for specific needs. Be sensitive to needs. Circle up and pray.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Ask the kids to help you clean up. If many are not responding, explain that helpers will be first in line and watch the kids volunteer.

Planning for Lesson 88
Ezekiel: sheep & goats
Eze. 34:11-24

Preschool Lesson For Lamentations

Have you ever cried about something? You may have hurt your knee or someone might have hurt your feelings. Jeremiah cried too. He was a messenger that God sent to His people. He had a sad message for them. God was upset at how they were acting. They were not loving God and loving others. They only thought about what THEY wanted to do.

Jeremiah cried for the people (make a noise like you are crying). He was sad that they did not love God and did not follow God. He tried to tell them how much God loved them in this book that he wrote. It is called Lamentations. It is a big word that means he was sad.

Jeremiah spoke a different language. His alphabet was different. He used his alphabet to write this book. Let's say our alphabet together (sing or say the alphabet with the kids).

Jeremiah wrote words to help the people see that God was sad and wanted them to love God with all their hearts.

God loves us very much too. He cares for us and helps all the time. Let's take time to thank God for watching over us and loving us.

Sing, "Our God is an Awesome God."

Hands-On Activities For Lamentations

Make Acrostics (remember this word from the lesson) using our alphabet or using each child's name!

Make a Praise acrostic to God. Write all the letters of the alphabet on a piece of paper and beside each letter write a word that describes God. For example: A-Awesome; B-Beautiful; C-Caring etc.

Try printing the letters to the Hebrew alphabet. It's harder than you think! (Look at the enclosed page.)

Decorate a tissue box with the words from Lamentations 3:25 "The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him."

Invite your friends to church. Make a cool invitation and invite them to come!

The people that Jeremiah talked to did not want to obey God . They wanted to do things their way. It was kind of like they were wrestling or playing tug of war with God. Bring a rope and play tug of war. Talk about who would win if God was on one side (God). Share how God wants us to obey Him and not play tug of war and try to do things our way. Also remind the kids that it is much better to do things God's way because He knows everything and He knows best!
