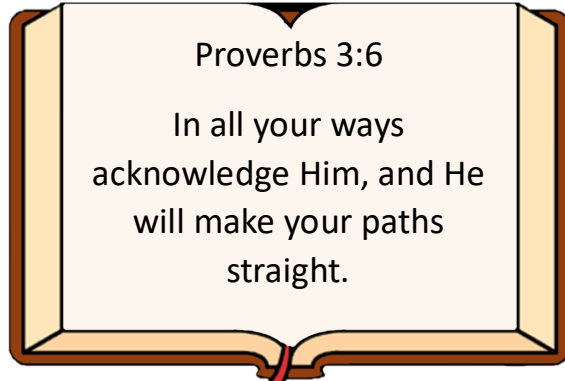


Jeremiah 1, 5, 7, 20,  
22, 25, 33, 36-39

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Weekly Memory Verse



## Jeremiah Delivers God's Warning



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When should we acknowledge God? \_\_\_\_\_

What will God do for us if we acknowledge Him? \_\_\_\_\_



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**Lesson Link**

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Jeremiah was just a teenager when God called him to be a prophet. God said to him, "I have chosen you to be a prophet to the nations."

After King Josiah died, the last four kings to rule in Judah led the people to return to worshiping idols. They refused to listen to God's Word and obey it. Their sins became so great that God could no longer keep from punishing them.

But first God sent Jeremiah to give them another warning. God told him to say, "You have sinned against the Lord. If you turn back to God now, He will care for you and forgive you. But if you refuse to listen and do what God says, a nation from the north is going to come and take you as prisoners back to their country."

God told Jeremiah to go to Jerusalem and stand by the temple gate and give His message to all the people who passed by. Then God told him to go to the palace and speak directly to the king.

The people became very angry with Jeremiah and threatened to kill him if he didn't stop preaching to them.

But Jeremiah did not stop; he faithfully gave God's message to the people. God told Jeremiah He would be with him and help him.

The people ignored the warning and continued to worship their idols. They also began to make Jeremiah's life difficult.

The temple priest had Jeremiah beaten and put in the stocks near the gate at the temple. He was forced to sit there until someone came and freed him. As the people passed by him, they laughed and made fun of him and called him a traitor.

The next day the priest set Jeremiah free, thinking Jeremiah would stop talking to the people. But Jeremiah stood up boldly and said to him, "The Lord says that this entire city is going to be captured by the king of Babylon, and the people are going to be taken to Babylon as captives."

When the Babylonian army came and camped right outside the city walls, the captain of the guard in Jerusalem stopped Jeremiah and said, "You are deserting to the Babylonians."

The captain of the guard would not listen to him. Instead, he arrested Jeremiah and brought him before the officials. They had him beaten and thrown into a dark, cold underground prison.

Then the king sent for Jeremiah so that he could speak to him privately. Jeremiah told him that he was going to be captured by the Babylonians. The king gave orders for Jeremiah to be placed in the courtyard of the guard and given bread to eat every day.

But even while Jeremiah was locked in the courtyard, he continued to speak God's message to the people and the king.

Some of the officials said to the king, "This man is a traitor; he should be put to death."

The king answered, "I am not able to do anything to stop you. Do whatever you want with him." They took Jeremiah and lowered him by ropes into a old well. It had no water, just deep thick mud. Jeremiah sank down into it when he reached the bottom. Then they left him alone to die of thirst and hunger.

But Jeremiah was not alone. God had not forgotten or left him. A man name was Ebed-Melech, who was working in the palace, went to the king and told him what they did to Jeremiah.

Immediately the king gave Ebed permission to get Jeremiah out of the well. Ebed tied some ropes to a bunch of old clothes and rags and lowered them down to Jeremiah. The men pulled Jeremiah out.

One day God said to Jeremiah, "take a scroll and write down all the words I have told you concerning Israel, Judah, and all the surrounding nations."

With the help of Baruch, the scribe, Jeremiah obeyed God's instructions. When they had finished, Jeremiah sent Baruch to read the words to the people at the temple.

Then the king's officials heard about the punishment God was going to bring on the people. They said, "We must tell the king about this!" Then they said to Baruch, "You and Jeremiah must go and hide."

The king sent for the scroll and had one of his assistants read it to him as he sat by a fire to keep himself warm. The king threw the scroll into the fire.

The king gave an order to go find Jeremiah and Baruch and arrest them. But no one could find them because God had hidden them.

God spoke to Jeremiah again, "Take another scroll and write down all the words that were in the first scroll. Tell the king that I am going to punish him and his family and officials."

God gave him the words to write down again. God said He was going to bring His people back to the land after being taken captive into Babylon. He kept this promise seventy years later. He told them that God's Son was going to come to earth and reign as king. That has not happened yet, but we know God is going to keep this promise, too. His words are preserved in the book of Jeremiah in our Bibles for us to read today. As we read it we are warned about sin and blessed by God's promise of hope for the future.

Jeremiah was a faithful witness for God throughout his life as a prophet. Even though he faced great difficulties, he never stopped giving God's message to the people, and God never stopped helping Jeremiah to acknowledge Him to others.

Circle the correct answer.

God told Jeremiah to give his message at the (*city well*, *gate of the temple*, *market place*, *king's palace*).

Circle the correct answer.

When he heard the book read, the king (*cut it and burned it*, *burst into tears*, *stomped his feet*).