

Jeremiah's Scroll

Jeremiah 36:1-32

MEMORY VERSE

JEREMIAH 36:3

“It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I propose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A Bible.

Two blank stickers for each child and paper cards with numbers 1 – 10 written on them.

Fruit roll ups, large squares or circles will work best.

As many sheets of parchment paper (8 1/2 x 11 inches OK) as the number of children in your class, black markers, ribbon, 1/2“ diameter doweling cut into 14” lengths (two for each child) and craft scissors that will cut special jagged edges.

ATTENTION GETTER!

God’s Preserves His Word!

We will learn in our lesson today that God’s Word can never be destroyed. People over the years have tried to get rid of God’s Word, but they will never succeed. Play this fun game to remember that God will always preserve His Word. The only supply needed is a Bible.

Have children stand in a large circle, holding their hands behind their backs. Choose someone to stand in the center of the circle. Explain to the children that you will be giving one of the persons in the circle the Bible. The object is for the chosen child to pass the Bible to the child next to them and that child onto the next, etc., all

behind their backs. After 30 seconds, the child in the middle will have to guess which child is holding the Bible. Make sure to let the children know in the circle that they all can pretend to be receiving the Bible to try to throw off the child in the middle.

The children should continue passing the Bible for 30 seconds. Say, “stop” and allow the child in the middle to guess who has the Bible. If the guess is correct, the person holding the Bible becomes the next center person. If the guess is incorrect, have the kids continue passing the Bible. Play a few rounds to give other children opportunity to play. As you begin your lesson time you can share about how that in some countries it is illegal to have a Bible and many people try to get rid of God’s Word. But God’s Word will always stand. And just like it was hard for the person in the middle of the circle to find the Bible, the enemies of God will never be able to completely rid the world of God’s Word. That’s what we will learn from Jeremiah and Baruch today.

LESSON TIME!

The prophet Jeremiah has been telling God’s people that they must turn from their evil ways and return to the one true and living God. Jeremiah was a prophet who was called by God to go to God’s people, Israel and deliver a message. They had turned away from God and didn’t want to serve Him anymore. Jeremiah faithfully declared the message that God gave him, but no one was interested in hearing it. Ultimately God would judge the nation, but in God’s patience He continues to plead with His people to return to Him.

In this lesson we see that again the Lord is telling Jeremiah to write down His words, so that His people would know how angry He is about their idolatry, but also to give them opportunity to repent. God wanted them to have the message of judgment, but also the message of hope if they would only turn from their sins and turn towards Him. That is one of the main messages of the whole Bible. God has given us His Word today so we can also understand that if

we would turn to the Lord and accept Jesus into our lives, then we can have eternal life and be freed from God's judgment. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

JEREMIAH 36:1-3

Now it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, that this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:

"Take a scroll of a book and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel, against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah even to this day.

"It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I purpose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."

At this time King Jehoiakim ruled over Judah. He was the son of King Josiah, who was an upright and godly king. However, Jehoiakim was not obedient to God at all. He didn't want to obey God or listen to His servants. So for Jeremiah to confront this king could mean danger for him. Sometimes evil kings put God's prophets in prison or, even worse, killed them. Even when things looked scary for Jeremiah, he still did what God asked him to do. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

God wanted Jeremiah to write down His words. This way it would be recorded for the people then and for everyone today to learn from. God has given us His Word, the Bible for us to learn more about Him and to learn from the mistakes that people made in the past. God does not want our lives to be given over to idolatry or sin. He wants us to serve Him and to live a life of blessings. We can learn from His Word how we can have a blessed life and what we

need to avoid so we do not have a life of misery. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

Notice God's heart in what He shares with Jeremiah. He says that judgment is coming, but He wants to have these words written down so people can read them and then turn from their ways. God wanted to forgive His people and pardon their sins. God's heart is that everyone would repent and come to Him.

JEREMIAH 36:4-5

Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the instruction of Jeremiah, all the words of the LORD which He had spoken to him.

And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, "I am confined, I cannot go into the house of the LORD.

Just as Jeremiah was obedient, we need to be obedient to the Lord. In the time that Jeremiah lived people were rebellious against the Word of God just like today. And at this particular time of Jeremiah's preaching he was "confined" as we read in verse 5, which possibly meant he had been imprisoned or banned from entering the temple because he spoke out against the people's wicked ways.

Therefore Jeremiah turned to his servant Baruch, who was a faithful man, to write the words on the scroll and read it to the people. We can learn a lot from Jeremiah and Baruch. Jeremiah was not going to allow confinement in the physical sense to stop him from getting God's Word out. And Baruch was not going to allow fear of being thrown in prison himself, to keep him from speaking God's truth. Do we have the same kind of trust and faith in the Lord like Jeremiah and Baruch? God's Word will always prevail. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

JEREMIAH 36:9-10

Now it came to pass in the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, that they proclaimed a fast before the LORD to all the people in Jerusalem, and to all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem.

Then Baruch read from the book the words of Jeremiah in the house of the LORD, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the scribe, in the upper court at the entry of the New Gate of the Lord's house, in the hearing of all the people.

In verses 6-9 we read that Baruch had already read the scroll to the people in the Lord's house and to all of those who came from the other cities of Judah. In verses 9-10 we read that Baruch read the scroll again in the Lord's house in the hearing of all the people.

Baruch was not just reading God's Word to the people once and stopping there. He wanted to make sure that God's message got out. Sometimes we need to be told more than once before we obey something. It was like that for God's people as well. Sometimes we may share the good news of Jesus with someone we love. Maybe they do not respond the first time. We may have to keep sharing the gospel and then one day they may listen and respond to Him. Sometimes people need to hear about Jesus several times before turning to Him.

Baruch continued on even though it seemed that no one was turning from his or her ways; but this time when he read God's Word, the princes, high priests, and scribes were present. They did not want to hear what God had to say. It would mean they would have to change and turn from their ways. Isn't it amazing that even the priests and the scribes, men who were to be example of the Lord to the people, did not want to listen to God's Word? They were too concerned about continuing in their sin along with the king. The people of Judah were fooling themselves into believing

they were safe and free from God's wrath because they had the temple in their land. But religion wouldn't save them and it can't save us either. Baruch faithfully continued to read the scroll, even to the leaders who didn't want to hear and had power to put Baruch in prison. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

JEREMIAH 36:17-19

And they asked Baruch, saying, "Tell us now, how did you write all these words; at his instruction?"

So Baruch answered them, "He proclaimed with his mouth all these words to me, and I wrote them with ink in the book."

Then the princes said to Baruch, "Go and hide, you and Jeremiah; and let no one know where you are."

By this time word was traveling fast that Baruch and Jeremiah were preaching about repentance and all that the Lord said He would do if the people would not repent. Those princes that did believe feared for Baruch and Jeremiah's lives, so they told them to hide. God will protect us when we are asked to carry out His Word. He will use us as long as He wants His ministry to be spread through us. As we see, nothing could stop God's Word. Next the king would hear the words. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

Hiding the Souls (Soles)

The object of this game is to find Jeremiah and Baruch. You will need two stickers for each child, paper cards with numbers 1 - 10 written on them. On only two of the stickers write a "J" and on two more write a "B" on them.

Divide the class into two teams and have them stand on opposite sides of the classroom. Place a sticker on the bottom of each shoe of each child. For each team place a "J" sticker on one person's

shoe and a “B” sticker on another person’s shoe. Give everyone a card with a number to hold up (adjust the numbers based on class size). Have everyone face each other. Choose one of the teams to begin. The child holding card one goes first. They can choose any number on the opposite team. For example they would say, “Number 3, left foot”. Then the person holding card three should show the bottom of their left foot. It will either be a blank sticker, a “J” sticker or a “B” sticker.

Next child one from the opposite team takes a turn and does the same thing. Memory is the key in this game. Once one of the letters “J” or “B” are revealed the play doesn’t stop there. The second letter must be revealed. When a child has revealed the second letter they can say, “I found Jeremiah and Baruch.” They must be able to reveal that letter and remember where the first letter is to win. If they can say where both letters are they win. If they don’t, play will resume until one team can reveal both letters. Keep playing until the children tire of the game.

JEREMIAH 36:21-24

So the king sent Jehudi to bring the scroll, and he took it from Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the hearing of the king and in the hearing of all the princes who stood beside the king.

Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him.

And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.

Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments, the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words.

When King Jehoiakim heard these words from the Lord what was his reaction? He was bitter and angry. He was mocking God by destroying the sacred scroll in the fire. He didn't care what God had to say. He loved his sin more than he loved God.

Not a lot is different today. In some countries, as we mentioned before, it is illegal to have a Bible. People don't like to confront their sin and the Bible tells us that we are sinners in need of a savior. They would rather turn from God and spend eternity in hell than to give up their sin and receive eternal life. Sometimes people that you might witness to will simply take the gospel tract and throw it away, not caring what God's Word says. But we still need to be faithful to declare God's Word. God was warning the king because He loved him and his people. God has also given us His Word to tell us that He loves us. We need to listen to it and obey. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

JEREMIAH 36:26-28

And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son, Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet, but the LORD hid them.

Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words which Baruch had written at the instruction of Jeremiah, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying:

"Take yet another scroll, and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned.

Even the king of Israel was unable to destroy the Word of God. He may burn the copy that he has, but God will provide another. Just like God's Word has been preserved for us, this hateful act by King Jehoiakim would not prevail. There are so many times throughout the ages when people have tried to destroy and get rid of God's Word. But that is one of the miraculous things about God's Word. Even though people have tried to destroy it, it has always remained.

The king thought he could get away with his sin. He didn't think that he had to obey God. It is the same for many today who don't want to follow Jesus. To refuse to listen to God does not lessen our responsibility before Him. We actually have more responsibility before Him because we have heard the truth. Have you responded to the truth of God's Word? **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

God's answer to the king's destruction of His Word was simply to have Jeremiah and Baruch to write down another copy. God's Word will always be there no matter what. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

JEREMIAH 36:29-31

"And you shall say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, 'Thus says the LORD: "You have burned this scroll, saying, 'Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and cause man and beast to cease from here?'"

'Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: "He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night.

"I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah

all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed." " "

God says what He means and means what He says. The king mistakenly thought he could destroy God's Word by destroying the scroll. While God's Word remained unharmed, the kingdom of the unrepentant king was destroyed. That is what sin will do in our lives. It did not have to be that way. If only the king had turned to God, things would have been so much different for him. Let's learn from his example. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

We need to make sure that we are listening to God's Word. Even though the king burned the scrolls from Jeremiah, we know who really won this battle. God won because we still have His Word to prove it today.

It is interesting that the Bible is indestructible. The Bible says that "heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Word shall stand forever." It sure sounds like God's Word is pretty powerful, wouldn't you say? The Bible is a very unique book; in fact it is a living book. Consider how it was written over hundreds of years, by 40 different writers who all lived in different areas of the world, at different times in history, and many having no contact with the others. Everything in the Bible is consistent, with no contradictions or mistakes. People cannot do that on their own, it has to be God.

Then you look at the fulfilled prophecies. There are over 400 prophecies about Jesus alone. Many of them told hundreds of years before Jesus was ever born. People could not just think that up. The Bible is a supernatural book. Let's make sure that we are not like the people in our story today and ignore what it says. That's what will get us into trouble. But let's learn to study our Bibles and follow what it says. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

Fruit Roll Scrolls

As a fun, snack time have fruit roll ups. You should get the kind that is either large squares or circles. Allow the children to roll them up like scrolls and eat them.

Scrolls of God's Word

You will need as many sheets of parchment paper (8 1/2 x 11 inches OK) as the number of children in your class, black markers, ribbon, 1/2" diameter doweling cut into 14" lengths (two for each child) and scissors that will cut special jagged edges. In the days of Jeremiah and Baruch they wrote God's Word down on parchments or scrolls. For our craft today we are going to make a scroll with our memory verse.

Give one sheet of parchment paper, the thicker the better, to each child. Have them write out today's memory verse or a similar one on the same theme. Hebrews 4:12 is a great verse concerning God's word. For added fun look up what Hebrew alphabet characters look like and maybe have the kids draw a few of those on their parchment. Have the children decorate their parchments with markers and other craft supplies.

Next, take the parchment and roll inward from both ends. Glue a section of 14" doweling to each end of the paper. Roll up the scroll and tie a small piece of ribbon around the scroll.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God preserving His Word and giving it to us today so that we can learn about Him and eternal life. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.