



Date: _____
Series: Good Kings - Bad Kings
Fall Year 4, Lesson 22

Jeremiah Warns the People

Take Home Point: *God is patient—come back to him. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Jeremiah 1-52

Key Verse: 2 Peter 3:9, "...he is patient for your sake. He...wants all people to have an opportunity to turn to him and change the way they think and act."

We will help kids know:

- Jeremiah is a prophet who warns the people and kings who did not heed the Lord.
- It was out of God's patience that he sent a prophet to warn his people and invite them to turn from their evil back to him.
- The southern kingdom of Judah was led into captivity because they did not heed the warnings and still God is patient and promises a rescue in the future.




We will help kids feel:

- Conviction over their decisions to repeat destructive or sinful behavior.
- Comfort that God is patient and offers full forgiveness through Christ.

We will help kids do:

- Examine and recall a misdeed they had repeatedly done, even though warned.
- Make a coaster that recalls God's patience and their need to turn to him.
- Pray that God will give them warnings and consequences to turn back to him when they make decisions that are against his will.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	The Shepherd will tell a story that causes the children to examine a time when they disobeyed even though repeatedly warned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plastic bag • a ceramic tile • hammer or brick
Large Group 	4 7 10 13	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets Another Chance”—Gordy tells how he got in trouble for something he had been warned about before.</p> <p>Dramatic Interview: “Good Kings/Bad Kings of Judah”—“King of Kids” interviews Jeremiah the Prophet to find out what happened to the Southern kingdom of Judah.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Gets Another Chance”—Gordy learns that God is patient even when he makes bad decisions and that he should ask God to help him make better decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • a yardstick • a crown • a royal robe • giant Bible prop • a scroll • a yoke • ropes • a piece of pottery • questions attached to each object in the box (<i>p. 15</i>) • lollipops or some other candy that lasts a long time
Small Group Application 	5	Children decorate a ceramic coaster to remind them that God is patient even when they disobey as Judah did.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ceramic tiles for each child • permanent markers

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

NOTE: As Warm-Up begins, remember to ask the children about their Bible reading times last week. Find out if anyone memorized a portion or what was learned from what was read.

Supplies: plastic bag, a ceramic tile, hammer or brick

In advance, place the tile in a bag and lean it up against something so that it can be easily broken with a hammer or brick. Tell the following story:

There was a boy named Johnny. He loved to play baseball. He played it at school on the playground and he played it with his friends at the park every afternoon when school was over. Every day when he came home, his mom would make him leave his ball in the garage. She told him he was never, ever to play baseball in the house.

One day, Johnny's mom was at the neighbors'. Johnny thought, "What difference would it make if I brought the ball inside, just this once?" Once inside, he found his sister sitting on the couch. She noticed the ball and said, "Ummm, I'm telling. You're not supposed to have that ball in the house."

Johnny thought he would tease her and said, "You'd better not, or I'll throw this ball right at you!" Then, Johnny took aim at the sofa near his sister. He thought he might tease her by throwing it there. So, he said, "You'd better not, or else this!" Then, he let the ball fly. But guess what! His aim was off. No, he didn't hit his sister and he didn't hit the sofa, either. Instead, he hit his mother's favorite lamp.

Hit the tile with a smashing sound effect.

Just then, the front door opened and who should walk in? You guessed it. It was his mother. It took Johnny three months of allowances to pay for that lamp. He even lost his privilege to play in the next baseball game. You can imagine how sorry he felt.

You would think that Johnny had learned his lesson, but two weeks later, when he was allowed to play ball again, guess what happened? He had just won a game and he came into the house in a good mood. He was tossing the ball and his mother was outside hanging laundry. Just as his mother came in the house, Johnny realized he had the

ball in his hand and tried to get rid of it by tossing it behind the couch. Do you think he hit the lamp again? No...but he hit the picture.

Hit the tile again to cause another smashing sound.

What do you think happened to Johnny after that? (*Allow for several answers.*)

Let's each share a time when we did something wrong and got in trouble. We were warned not to do it, but just like Johnny, we did it again. I remember a time when...

Share a personal example from your life.

Parents and teachers can get pretty upset after warning us not to do something several times. Those are times that really require patience.

What about God? How does he feel when he warns us and yet we disobey, sometimes more than once? Today we are going to learn that **God is patient and we need to come back to him.* The reason we have second chances is so that we can come back to him. If we don't take those chances, then we can have some very serious consequences. But God will be patient. He wants us to come back to him.

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Gets Another Chance"—Gordy tells how he got in trouble for something he had been warned about before.

Dramatic Interview: "Good Kings/Bad Kings of Judah"—"King of Kids" interviews Jeremiah the Prophet to find out what happened to the southern kingdom of Judah.

Puppet Conclusion: "Gordy Gets Another Chance"—Gordy learns that God is patient even when he makes bad decisions and that he should ask God to help him make better decisions.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible Event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Today's lesson covers the whole book of Jeremiah so the questions will come from several different passages.

Have children open their Bibles to the book of Jeremiah.

Read Jeremiah 1:4-8. Then ask:

How did Jeremiah respond when God appointed him as a prophet? (*"I do not know how to speak. I am only a boy!"*)

What was God's reaction? (*Jeremiah 1:7-8. He said not to say he was too young and that Jeremiah must obey him. He also told him not to be afraid because he would be with Jeremiah.*)

What message did God tell Jeremiah to give to his people? (*That the people disobeyed God and he would bring destruction on them unless they repented. See Jeremiah 2:29-30, 3:12-13, 4:1-2, 7:22-26.*)

Read Jeremiah 8:18, 21 and 9:1.

How did Jeremiah feel about the consequences for the sins of the people? (*He was brokenhearted.*)

What message did God send when he told Jeremiah to smash the potter's jars in chapter 19:10-11? (*That God would smash Jerusalem like Jeremiah smashed the jars.*)

What other consequence did Jeremiah prophesy to King Zedekiah in 37:8? (*Judah would be taken by Babylon.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

How do you think Jeremiah was able to continue even when he was made fun of, beaten, and thrown into prison and a well? (*He knew he was doing the right thing and God was helping just like he promised. See Jeremiah 1:8.*)

What can we learn from Jeremiah's example of bravery? (*That we don't need to be afraid because God is with us and will rescue us. See Jeremiah 1:19.*)

How do you think God felt when his people were taken by Babylon because of their repeated disobedience? *(Probably sad like when a parent sees a child get hurt. Allow for other discussion.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Our key verse today is 2 Peter 3:9 that says “...*he is patient for your sake. He... wants all people to have an opportunity to turn to him and change the way they think and act.*”

How does God react when we sin over and over? *(He is patient.)* Why is he patient according to this verse? *(He wants to see everyone make good decisions and change their heart to him.)*

One of the best things we can do when we make decisions that cause us to turn away from God is to pray that we would have some kind of warning, consequence or punishment that would remind us to turn back to him.

Have you ever thought about praying to get caught when you do something wrong? It can actually be the best thing for you so that you learn from your mistake before more serious consequences happen.

Our craft today will remind us that **God is patient, come back to him.* This is a good thing to remember when we feel sad about the bad decisions we make.

Application Activity:

Give each child a tile and set out the markers. Then say:

On your tile, write part of our key verse, “God is patient with you.” You can use this for a coaster and set your glasses on it. This is also to remind you of the piece of pottery Jeremiah broke to warn the people that they would be smashed if they did not turn back to God.

Allow the children to decorate the coasters as they would like. Then review the Take Home Point again.

Closing Prayer:

Have kids think of how they have disobeyed God or made a bad choice. Let them confess their sin. Then thank God that he is patient and sent Jesus to die for our sins so that we can turn back to him.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Come Back to God!

Good Kings/Bad Kings in the Land of Judah

This seven-week series tours the southern kingdom of Judah and visits its kings. The audience will interact in the contest called “Good King—Bad King.” Every week, a child is pulled from the audience and given the title “King of Kids” for the day. This child is costumed with a crown and robe and sit on a throne. He/she will also be given a yardstick to help make their ruling.

Gordy becomes the “Court Comic” and the large group presenter will be “Lefty,” the king’s right-hand man. It is the job of the “King of Kids” to ask interview questions of the king who is interviewed that day. After the interview of the Judean king, the “King of Kids” asks for a judgment from the audience as to whether he is a good king or a bad king. The audience will respond with cheers or boos. Lefty will run the meter that determines good or bad with an arrow. The “King of Kids” has the privilege of giving the consequences to the bad king, such as a pie in the face or a squirt with a water pistol. If the Judean king is ruled a good king, the “King of Kids” gives the good king a bucket of goodies (i.e., tootsie rolls) to share with the audience. Either way, the audience loves it!

Each week another adult plays the role of the King of Judah. Since it may be hard to find several different adults to play this role, the script is written so that one person could play all of the kings because they are not costumed uniquely. Instead, on the side of the stage opposite the “King of Kids,” the king being interviewed will sit on a stool with a sign around his/her neck and a simple crown. In front of him/her is a stage prop that is a giant Bible (only the cover is shown). The Bible is made out of two poster boards attached to a cardboard box so the Bible looks like it is open. The box behind the Bible will be filled with objects that help tell the king’s story. Each object is sequenced and has a question attached to it. Lefty (the large group presenter) will pull the objects out one at a time and hand them to the “King of Kids.” He/she will then read the question, asking for an explanation of the object. The questions help the king being interviewed tell his story with visual illustration.

For pictures of the Bible box and King Meter, see lesson 16.

Props: a yardstick, one crown, royal robe, a throne, giant Bible (two poster boards attached with a 6” binding to a cardboard box), a stool, a yoke, a scroll, ropes, a piece of pottery, lollipops that take a long time to finish

Gordy Gets Another Chance

Puppet Presentation

Presenter: I'm looking for Gordy. Have any of you kids seen him? Maybe we should call for him. (Lead the kids in calling for Gordy.)

Gordy: Are you looking for me?

Presenter: Gordy, there you are. How was your week?

Gordy: It was okay.

Presenter: What did you do?

Gordy: I stayed in my room... a lot.

Presenter: Oh, what else did you do?

Gordy: Let's see. Well, I stayed in my room.

Presenter: I know, you said that. But what else did you do? How about on Saturday?

Gordy: I just kind of hung out.

Presenter: Where was that?

Gordy: Oh... in my room.

Presenter: Gordy, you must like your room a lot.

Gordy: Actually, I'm kind of getting tired of it.

Presenter: So what are you going to do this afternoon?

Gordy: I'm going to be in my room.

Presenter: Oh, I see. Were you in "time out?"

Gordy: How did you guess?

Presenter: What did you do?

Gordy: You know that story we heard in small group about throwing stuff in the house?

Presenter: Gordy, you didn't throw a ball in the house and break something, did you?

Gordy: No...I didn't throw anything.

Presenter: Did you do something you had gotten in trouble for and then you did it again?

Gordy: Uh-huh.

Presenter: What was it?

Gordy: My dad has this bowling ball...

Presenter: Oh, no...

Gordy: And when I got it out of his closet the last time, I got in trouble and I promised to not ever get it out again. But I just wanted to try one quick roll down the hall when no one else was around.

Presenter: So you set up a bowling pin and tried it in your house? Gordy!

Gordy: No, I didn't set up a bowling pin!

Presenter: That's good!

Gordy: Why would I set up a bowling pin when I have perfectly good cat right there?

Presenter: Gordy, you didn't roll the ball at the cat, did you?

Gordy: (Whistle innocently and look away.)

Presenter: I hope you didn't hit the cat.

Gordy: Nope. I missed the cat.

Presenter: That's good. Did you hit the wall?

Gordy: No. It never made it to the wall because it bounced off a shoe and rolled down the stairs.

Presenter: But, Gordy, how did it stop?

Gordy: It stopped in the front yard.

Presenter: That's lucky.

Gordy: After it went through the glass... front... door!

Presenter: Gordy! That's terrible!

Gordy: You're telling me!

Presenter: What did your parents do?

Gordy: Let's just say my parents told me I should get familiar with my room for a while. I don't know why sometimes I do things I shouldn't do. I guess I'll never learn.

Presenter: Now wait a minute, Gordy, that's not true. In some ways it's good that you get caught and have consequences.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Presenter: Having consequences helps you not to repeat the same mistakes. It also reminds us that **God is patient—come back to him when you disobey him.*

Gordy: Doesn't he ever give up? My mom says this week she doesn't know what to do with me!

Presenter: It's a good thing, Gordy, that your mom is patient and that you are sorry for what you've done. You came back to her, in a way. Just like God is patient and wants us to come back to him. Some people ignore him and they suffer bad consequences. We want to remember today that **God is patient – come back to him.* We are going to find out more about that in our interview.

Jeremiah the Prophet

Dramatic Interview

Gordy: Goody! That means it's time to put on my comic hat!

Lefty: Yes, and it's also time to choose our "King of Kids" and this will be done with our magic King Finder.

Pull out the yardstick, turn around and move the stick back and forth behind your back and then stop. Turn back around and bring forward a child the stick is pointing to and give him/her a crown and a royal robe from the stage assistant. The kid sits on the throne and is handed the yardstick as a scepter.

Lefty: Today we will interview...

Jeremiah enters.

Wait, you're not a king!

Jeremiah: No, I am not. The kings could not make it today. I am Jeremiah the prophet, sent to warn the kings of Judah. I warned King Zedekiah, King Jehoiakim and King Jehoiachin.

Lefty: **That does not sound like an easy task. Let's look at our first object to help us understand what you did.**

Reach into the box and pull out a wooden yoke. Say:

"King of Kids," what is your question for Jeremiah?

Hand the yoke with the question attached to the kid volunteer.

King of Kids: What is this yoke for?

Jeremiah: ***God called me to be a prophet at a very young age and I was scared, but I knew it was what I had to do. I spent many years telling the people of Judah they needed to turn from worshiping idols and follow the Lord. I stood at the gate of the temple and people laughed at me. Finally, I put a wooden yoke like that one on my shoulders to show the people that if they didn't turn away, they would be put under the control of their enemies just like animals are put under a yoke.***

Lefty: That must have been a hard thing to do. I am interested to hear more.

Next, pull out a piece of pottery.

King of Kids: What is this pottery from?

Jeremiah: ***There was another time I was trying to get the people's attention and they still would not listen to me. The Lord told me to take a pot from the potter's house and break it. I did and told the people how they, too, would be smashed and scattered if they did not repent.***

Lefty: Let's see what else is in here.

Pull out a scroll.

King of Kids: What is written on this scroll?

Jeremiah: *The Lord told me to write down on a scroll all the messages that had been given to me. I called a man named Baruch to write it down. I did not stop there, though. I sent Baruch to the temple to read it since I was not allowed because people did not like my messages. Baruch went and one of the priest's sons heard the messages and thought the princes should know about it. The princes heard it and believed God's message.*

The princes took the message to King Jehoiakim. I had to hide during this. When the king heard it, he cut up the scrolls and threw them in the fire! Baruch and I worked very hard and we made another one. This time it included what King Jehoiakim had done.

Lefty: There is one last thing in this box...

Pull out some ropes.

King of Kids: What are these ropes for?

Jeremiah: *Finally, the enemies came to capture Judah. The king sent for me from prison where I had been put for all my preaching. I told King Zedekiah the truth, that the people would be captured by Babylon. The king was pleased with me telling the truth so he let me out of prison.*

I continued to preach and some people became so angry with me that they threw me into a well. A man named Ebedmelech told the king what the people had done, so King Zedekiah told him to rescue me. He dropped ropes with cloths to pull me out of the well. I was treated better in the prison, but not allowed to talk to anyone.

Lefty: Jeremiah, you've had a rough time.

Jeremiah: *That's why they called me the "weeping prophet." I was so burdened because I kept telling the people to repent, but they didn't listen. So all the people of Judah were captured by Babylon.*

Lefty: Normally we vote on whether our guest is a good king or bad king. Today I think we have to ask ourselves about prophets. Jeremiah wasn't the only one. There were other prophets: Isaiah, Joel, Amos and many others. Kids, are these prophets good or bad? *(Allow audience to answer with cheers.)* We are going to give you some candy as you leave. It is candy that takes a long time to finish so that it will remind you of the way God is patient even when his children disobey him.

Gordy Gets Another Chance

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: That Jeremiah guy had it pretty rough. People did not like him even though he was doing the right thing. He must have been pretty frustrated because the people did not listen to him.

Presenter: **That's true. Remember, Jeremiah said they called him the "weeping prophet." He was so sad the people would not listen to God's warnings that he actually cried several times.**

Gordy: I guess I should listen to warnings a little more often, too. Then things like glass doors wouldn't get broken and I wouldn't have to spend all that time in my room.

Presenter: **That's right, Gordy. Sometimes God sends us people who are like prophets in our lives. They might be parents or teachers. God uses them to guide us so we will know right from wrong and we will know better how to follow God. Do you know who the best prophet of all time was?**

Gordy: I'm not sure, but usually the answer for questions like this is Jesus.

Presenter: **Right. Jesus came to show us how to live our lives for God. But more than that, he was God's Son and gave his life for us. Because of that, we can have forgiveness for times that we mess up, and even mess up again and again.**

Gordy: And if God was patient with all those goofy kings of Judah and all the wrong stuff they did, he will be patient with me as well, right?

Presenter: **That is right.**

Gordy: Presenter, I want to pray right now and make sure I tell God I'm always coming back to him.

Presenter: **Go ahead, Gordy.**

Gordy: Dear Lord, I'm sorry for disobeying my parents with the bowling ball. Thank you for being patient and letting me tell you I'm sorry. Thank you for patient parents, also. Best of all, thank you for sending Jesus to die for my sins...for all those times I disobey and goof up. Each time, help me to remember that you are patient and that I can come back to you and stop doing wrong stuff. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Jeremiah's Responses

YOKE:

God called me to be a prophet at a very young age and I was scared, but I knew it was what I had to do. I spent many years telling the people of Judah they needed to turn from worshiping idols and follow the Lord. I stood at the gate of the temple and people laughed at me. Finally, I put a wooden yoke like that one on my shoulders to show the people that if they didn't turn away, they would be put under the control of their enemies just like animals are put under a yoke.

PIECE OF POTTERY:

There was another time I was trying to get the people's attention and they still would not listen to me. The Lord told me to take a pot from the potter's house and break it. I did and told the people how they, too, would be smashed and scattered if they did not repent.

SCROLLS:

The Lord told me to write down on a scroll all the messages that had been given to me. I called a man named Baruch to write it down. I did not stop there, though. I sent Baruch to the temple to read it since I was not allowed because people did not like my messages. Baruch went and one of the priest's sons heard the messages and thought the princes should know about it. The princes heard it and believed God's message.

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ROPES:

Finally, the enemies came to capture Judah. The king sent for me from prison where I had been put for all my preaching. I told King Zedekiah the truth, that the people would be captured by Babylon. The king was pleased with me telling the truth so he let me out of prison.

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Say after Lefty's response:

That's why they called me the "weeping prophet." I was so burdened because I kept telling the people to repent, but they didn't listen. So all the people of Judah were captured by Babylon.

King of Kids Questions

YOKE:

What is this yoke for?

POTTERY:

What is this pottery from?

SCROLL:

What is written on this scroll?

ROPES:

What are these ropes for?