KINGS AND PROPHETS

ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN SG

LESSON 6

JEREMIAH AND THE SCROLL

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Invites Us to Respond to Him
SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 36
GOD'S BIG STORY: God gives the prophet Jeremiah a warning for King Jehoiakim and the people of Judah, calling them to turn from their wicked ways and be forgiven, but the king ignores the message, cuts up the scroll, and burns it in the fire.
WORD OF WONDER: Be still, and know that I am God. I will be honored among the nations. I will be honored in the earth. The LORD who rules over all is with us. The God of Jacob is like a fort to us. —Psalm 46:10–11



- Welcome Question: What is the best news you've ever gotten?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: 10,000 Reasons to Respond
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Ancient Scrolls

SCAN FOR THIS WEEK'S VIDEO!

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Invites Us to Respond to Him
SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 36
WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 46:10–11

As I read the story of God's message to the people of Judah and King Jehoiakim, I felt little in common with a man who had such blatant contempt for God's Word.

Read Jeremiah 36 for this unusual account.

How could someone treat the Word of God with such disrespect? How could the king be so bold as to ignore the words delivered directly to him?

However, as I meditated on this story for a few days, I felt a whisper in my own thoughts asking, "When have you tossed aside God's Word to you?"

I ignore God's command to rest, deciding that my to-do list is more important than His instruction for me. I rehash sins that God has already forgiven and rob myself of His peace. As God's Spirit works in me, I am constantly made aware of my own attempt to cut off the parts of His Word that I don't like.

And yet, God's plan to forgive Judah's wrongdoing (if they turned from their sin) is the same promise to me. He only asks that I respond. The question then becomes: Do I have faith to approach my Father once again after I've stared ahead, unmoved by His words?

Thank God that His invitation still stands. May He soften my heart so that I would always respond to His grace.

—Jennifer V. Davis
English Teacher and former Children's Ministry Director
Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?
Jeremiah was a prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah right before the fall of Babylon. His ministry began during the reign of King Josiah, who tried to rid the land of idols. But the people of Judah didn't accept his message or God's Word.

WHAT?
Jeremiah received many messages from the Lord, reminding the people of the words of God, the Holy One of Israel. The prophecy in this passage was meant to warn Judah of the coming judgment so they would turn back to God.

WHERE?
Jeremiah had his scribe read the message in the temple. This same temple would soon be destroyed because God's people had been sinful for so long. The book of Deuteronomy contains a warning to Israel that if they ignored God's Word, He would allow other nations to conquer them.

WHEN?
This would have taken place in 605 BC, which was right before Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon began to take captives from Judah to Babylon. In 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar would completely destroy Jerusalem and the temple, and God's people would be exiles in Babylon for 70 years.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:
Jeremiah's calling was to share the word of the Lord and warn people to turn back to Him. Jesus would later do the same thing, calling people to Himself: "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15 NIV).

Large Group or Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Invites Us to Respond to Him
SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 36
WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 46:10–11

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say **"I'm curious.."** before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **When you hear really good news, how do you react?** *(Encourage kids to answer verbally and/or with facial expressions and sound effects!)*
- **When you hear bad news, how do you react? Is it hard to keep a good attitude? Why or why not?**

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

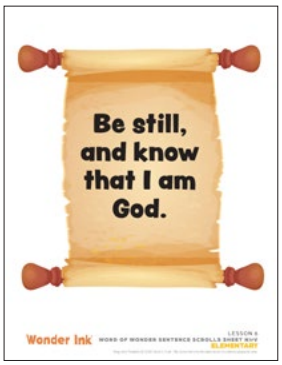
Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

Be still, and know that I am God. I will be honored among the nations. I will be honored in the earth. The LORD who rules over all is with us. The God of Jacob is like a fort to us.

—Psalm 46:10–11 (NIrV)

SUPPLIES: Bible, rubber bands (6 per small group)
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Word of Wonder Sentence Scrolls Sheets NIrV (1 set per small group), Word of Wonder Sentence Scroll Sheets Backward NIrV (optional)



Ahead of time, print a set of Word of Wonder Sentence Scroll Sheets NIrV or NIV for each small group. Alternatively, for preteen small groups who are looking for a challenge, print the Word of Wonder Sentence Scroll Sheets Backward NIrV or NIV. Roll each sheet so that it looks like a scroll and keep it in place with a rubber band. Each group should have six scrolls.

One way we can respond to God and His amazing power and love is by simply being still. Our Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series reminds us of this! Let's say the verses together! Open your Bible to Psalm 46:10–11. Read Psalm 46:10–11 several times together.

Give a rolled-up scroll to each kid or pair of kids. Invite them to open their scrolls, read their part of the Word of Wonder (in a grand voice!), and put themselves in verse order. After getting into the correct order, the group can say the verses several times, with each kid saying her specific part. Mix up the scrolls and repeat the activity, as time allows.

Are your preteens ready for a bigger challenge? Give them the "Backward" version of the Sentence Scrolls Sheets and challenge them to read their portion of the verse from right to left (rather than left to right!). Explain that the original scrolls Jeremiah had Baruch write were in ancient Hebrew and would have been read from right to left.

Leader Tip: *For Younger Kids.* Modify this activity for the younger kids by numbering the sheets 1–6 ahead of time and having kids get in order according to the numbers on their sheets.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Explain to kids that today's story comes straight from the Bible, God's holy Word. Encourage your volunteers to help kids find the book of Jeremiah in their Bibles. Invite kids to open to chapter 36.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, experience more of the story!

Invite four different kids to each read a set of verses from Jeremiah 36 and help them find these verses prior to reading. The verses are Jeremiah 36:1–4, 8–10, 20–24, 27–31. If your group is comprised of mostly pre-readers, invite a leader to read these verses. Then do one or both of the following:

Elementary Questions

- **What news did God give to Jeremiah to share with King Jehoiakim** (jih-HOY-uh-kim)**?** *(If they listen to God's Word and turn from their evil ways, God will forgive them, or else they'll experience punishment.)*
- **How did Jeremiah get this news to the king?** *(He had his friend Baruch [buh-ROOK] read a scroll to the king.)*
- **What did the king do when he heard the news?** *(He cut the scroll up and burned it in the fire.)*
- **Why do you think the king reacted this way?**
- **God was willing to forgive the king and the people if they stopped doing evil things and turned back to Him. What does that show us about what God is like?**
- **God invites us to respond to Him. How can we respond to Him when we sin, or do wrong things?**

Sometimes it's hard to admit when we're wrong, and we might not want to listen. But God invites us to respond and is ready to forgive! Let's respond to God now through prayer!

Preteen Questions

- **What job did God give to the prophet Jeremiah?** *(To warn the people of Judah that their land would be destroyed and taken from them if they didn't turn back to God and obey Him.)*
- **What did God say He would do if the people of Judah stopped doing evil things and obeyed God?** *(Forgive them.)* **What does that show us about what God is like?**
- **How did Jeremiah get this news to King Jehoiakim** (jih-HOY-uh-kim)**?** *(He had his friend Baruch [buh-ROOK] read a scroll to the king.)*
- **What did the king do when he heard the news?** *(He cut the scroll up and burned it in the fire.)*
- **Why do you think the king reacted this way?**
- **God invites us to respond to Him. How can we respond to Him when we sin, or do wrong things?**

Sometimes we don't react well to every situation. God always reacts with love, though, and He invites us to respond to His offer of forgiveness. Let's respond to God now through prayer!

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to share prayer requests and pray for one another. Explain that prayer is one way God invites us to respond to Him. Then invite the kids into about 10 seconds of silent prayer, where they can quietly talk with God, say they're sorry, and receive His gracious forgiveness.

LARGE GROUP

refer to large group leader guide

Elementary Responding in Worship: 10,000 Reasons to Respond

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils, writing utensils
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Wonder Truth Scroll Sheet (1 per kid), "10,000 Reasons" on the Kings and Prophets Elementary Spotify playlist



Ahead of time, print the Wonder Truth Scroll Sheet for each kid.

Today we've learned that God invites us to respond to Him. Let's take a few minutes now to do just that.

First, let's take some deep breaths and practice being still. Standing where you are, close your eyes and take a few deep breaths as the kids follow your lead. **Now, as you listen to this song, think about the words, and if you know them, sing along. They point out amazing reasons that we can respond to God by worshiping Him!** Play "10,000 Reasons" from the Kings and Prophets Elementary Spotify playlist. Invite kids to sing and dance along or simply sit and listen—it's up to them!When the song ends, ask the kids:

What word or phrase from the song stood out most to you? Why? Invite kids to share freely.

Like the song—and the Bible!—say, God is rich in love and slow to anger. He loves us, and when we turn to Him, He is ready to forgive our sin—the wrong things we say and do. God invites us to respond to Him!

Give each kid a copy of the Wonder Truth Scroll Sheet and set out coloring and writing utensils. **On your sheet is a scroll. Let's listen to the song one more time, and this time, you can write or draw on your scroll as you listen. How will you respond to God today? Maybe you'll respond to God by telling Him about a wrong thing you've done and asking for forgiveness. Maybe you'll respond to Him in worship by telling Him how great He is. Whatever you want to say or do in response to God today, you can write or draw it.**

Play "10,000 Reasons" from the Kings and Prophets Elementary Spotify playlist as kids write and draw on their scrolls. Encourage kids to take their scrolls home as a reminder that God invites them to respond to Him.

Make It Inclusive: Provide a variety of drawing utensils to benefit kids of varying fine motor skill abilities. For example, markers require less muscle strength/pressure than crayons or colored pencils. Palm-grasp crayons also work well for some kids.

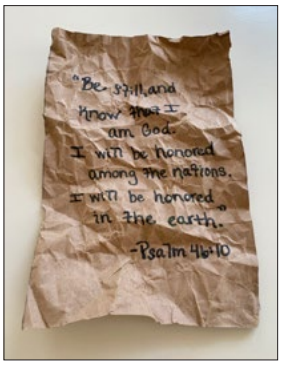
Preteen Responding in Worship: Ancient Scrolls

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), scissors (prep only), brown paper grocery bags (1 per 3–4 kids), twine or ribbon (12" length per kid), fine-tipped permanent markers (1 per kid), whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional), rolling pin (optional), pencils (optional)
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: music from the Kings and Prophets Elementary Spotify playlist,

Ahead of time, cut rectangles from brown paper grocery bags, one rectangle per kid. Rectangles can be approximately 8"x12". (You can get 3–4 rectangles from each bag.) Also cut one 12" length of ribbon or twine per kid. Consider writing a few Bible verses or references on a whiteboard to help kids in choosing a favorite Bible verse to write on their scrolls for this activity.

In God's big story today, we learned about a king who heard God's Word and didn't respond well. What did King Jehoiakim (jih-HOY-uh-kim) **do when Baruch** (buh-ROOK) **read him the scroll with God's words written on it?** Kids respond freely. **Yes, he cut it apart and threw it in the fire! God had invited the king to respond to Him by turning away from doing evil and toward God. God was ready to forgive. But the king was unwilling to listen.**

God has given us His Word too. Hold up a Bible. **And He invites us to respond to Him. We can respond by turning toward Him, by accepting His love and forgiveness for our sins—the wrong things we say and do—and by following His good ways with the help of the Holy Spirit.**



King Jehoiakim may have burned the scroll with God's words on it, but that didn't stop God! God told Jeremiah to write His words on another scroll, and that's exactly what the prophet did! Let's spend time now writing God's Word on our own scrolls as we respond to Him in worship and prayer.

Give each kid a paper-bag rectangle along with a fine-tipped permanent marker, a Bible, and a length of twine or ribbon. Invite kids to make their papers look like ancient parchment by crumpling and flattening them several times. If a rolling pin is available, encourage them to crumple their papers and then flatten them with it. They can also tear the edges of their paper slightly to give it a worn, aged look.



Next, invite kids to write a favorite Bible verse or a verse they want to remember on their parchment using a fine-tipped permanent marker. They might want to use fancy letters or even try writing the verse from right to left, Jeremiah's words would have been written on the ancient Hebrew scroll in today's story. Some kids may want to write the verse lightly in pencil first and then trace over the letters with a marker.

If kids aren't sure what Bible verse to write, give them some ideas. If you wrote verses or references on the whiteboard ahead of time, show them to the kids. Or share one of your favorite Bible verses with them. Ask volunteers to be available to help kids find verses.

As kids work on their scrolls, invite them to respond to God by talking with Him in prayer or singing to Him in worship. Play music from the Kings and Prophets Elementary Spotify playlist as kids respond.

Once kids finish writing verses on their paper-bag parchments, invite them to roll them from both sides like an ancient scroll. Sometimes rolling the paper around a pencil helps make it tight. Once rolled, kids can tie their scrolls around the middle with their twine or ribbon.

Invite kids to take their scrolls home and open them every day this week to read God's Word on them and remember that God invites them to respond to Him!

Leader Tip: This might be a moment of holy curiosity for some kids as they wonder what it means to respond to God in faith. Be ready to talk with kids about following Jesus! Consider referring to the Salvation Path resource and inviting your ministry leader and kids' parents into the conversation.

Make It Inclusive: Prepare some paper-bag parchments in advance by writing Bible verses on them ahead of time. Kids who benefit from extra support can still fully participate by crumpling the paper and rolling the scrolls, with a peer or adult offering help as needed.