LESSON 6

JEREMIAH AND THE SCROLL

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Invites Us to Listen 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. —Psalm 46:10a

Object Lesson: Scroll

Activity: Who Made the Sound?

Worship

God's Big Story

Snack

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Musical Statues

Object Lesson: Scroll

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet), butcher or kraft paper (optional), coloring utensils (optional)

Before kids arrive, roll up a piece of paper into the shape of a scroll.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so glad you all came to church today! I have something special to show you. Hold up the scroll. **Does anyone know what this is?** Allow the kids to respond. **This is a scroll, which is sort of like a book. A long time ago, people used to write on scrolls so other people could read and hear the messages.**

Let kids take turns rolling and unrolling the scroll. You can also use a long roll of butcher or kraft paper and let the kids roll and unroll it. They can use coloring utensils to color on the paper.

We'll hear today about someone in the Bible who wrote a special message from God on a scroll. We can listen to God's messages too. We'll learn more about it today.

Activity: Who Made the Sound?

SUPPLIES: shaker or maraca (or Easter egg filled with dried beans)

Where are your ears? Encourage kids to point to their ears. **God gave us ears so we can listen. We can listen to our parents, friends, teachers, and even God! We're going to play a game where you have to use your listening ears to see if you can guess who's making the sound.**

> **Make It Inclusive:** Be sensitive to the fact that some kids may have hearing impairments. Make sure to emphasize that we can listen with our other senses too, such as our eyes and our bodies.

Let the kids take turns holding the shaker or maraca (or Easter egg filled with dried beans) and shaking it while the other kids point to the person who is making the sound. To make it more difficult for older kids, have them close their eyes and point to where the sound is coming from.

You did a great job listening to the sounds. Did you know that we can listen to God too? We'll learn about that in God's big story today.

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN TO HIM.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—*Point up.*

INVITES US—*Point at yourself.*

TO LISTEN—*Point at your ears.*

TO HIM—*Point up.*

Worship

Today we'll learn about how God invites us to listen to Him. When we're worshiping today, listen closely to the music and words and see if God helps you know or feel anything about Him.

Play songs from the Little Learners Playlist and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, paper (1 sheet)

Ahead of time, roll up a sheet of paper to look like a scroll.

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Jeremiah. Encourage the kids to say, "Jeremiah." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Jeremiah!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can show the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

Every time I say the word "listen," point to your ears. Demonstrate pointing to your ears.

One day God gave a message to a prophet named Jeremiah. A prophet is someone who speaks God's messages to others. God wanted His people to listen (point to ears) **to Him and stop doing bad things.**

Jeremiah listened carefully to God's message. Jeremiah asked a man named Baruch (buh-ROOK) **to write the message on a scroll.** Hold up the paper scroll. Pretend to write on it. **Baruch listened** (point to ears) **and wrote the message on the scroll, then took it to the king to read. The king was sitting by the fire getting warm because it was cold. Baruch read the message, but the king didn't listen.** Point to ears. **The king ripped up the scroll and threw it into the fire!** As you're telling that part, rip up the paper and toss it on the ground.

The king didn't want to listen (point to ears) **to what God had to say. Jeremiah and Baruch wrote the message again and the king still didn't listen.** Point to ears. **How do you think it made God feel when they didn't listen** (point to ears) **to Him? We can all listen** (point to ears) **to what God has to say! God invites us to listen** (point to ears) **to Him.** Make sure to clean up the ripped paper from the ground so toddlers don't get a hold of it.

Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

Dear God. kids repeat

You know me, love me, and lead me too. kids repeat

Please help me follow You. kids repeat

Thank you for snacks so yummy. kids repeat

That fill my happy tummy! kids repeat

Amen

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

Be still, and know that I am God.

—Psalm 46:10a

Our Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series is from Psalm 46:10a. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together. Open a Bible to Psalm 46:10a and practice the verse with the kids.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **BE STILL,—***Open your palms, facing down. Move your palms downward at the same time.*
- **AND KNOW—***Point to your head.*
- **THAT I AM GOD.—***Point up.*
- **PSALM 46:10a—***Hold your hands open in front of you, as if opening a book.*

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. You can cup your hands around your ears to remind you to listen to God. Demonstrate that for the kids.

God, thank You for helping us be still and listen to You. Thank You for speaking to us and inviting us to listen to You. Help us hear from You this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you always remember that you are loved by God. He always wants what is best for you and He wants us to listen to Him. As you go out this week, may He speak to you in the quiet and in the loud.

Activity: Musical Statues

The king in the story didn't listen to God. That wasn't a good choice. Let's play a game where we use our listening ears. I'm going to play some music, and you can dance around and be silly. But when the music stops and I say, "Be still," you need to listen and freeze as you hold very still like a statue.

Make It Inclusive: Some kids may struggle to freeze and hold still. You can use a line or tape on the floor to have them stand on. You can also give them a squishy fidget toy to squeeze while they stand still.

Play music from the Kings and Prophets Early Childhood Spotify playlist. Pause the music periodically and encourage the kids to freeze when the music stops.

You did a great job listening for the music to stop. God invites us to listen to Him too.