

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 147: THE CALLING OF JEREMIAH
JEREMIAH 1:1-12

These are the messages of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah. Jeremiah belonged to the family of priests who lived in the town of Anathoth. That town is in the land that belongs to the tribe of Benjamin. The LORD began to speak to Jeremiah in the 13th year that Josiah, son of Amon, was king of the nation of Judah. He continued to speak to Jeremiah during the time that Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, was king of Judah and during the eleven years and five months that Zedekiah, also a son of Josiah, was king of Judah. In the fifth month of Zedekiah's eleventh year as king, the people who lived in Jerusalem were taken away into exile. The LORD'S message came to me: "Before I made you in your mother's womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I made you holy. I chose you to be a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "But, Lord GOD, I don't know how to speak. I am only a child." But the LORD said to me, "Don't say, 'I am only a child.' You must go everywhere I send you and say everything I tell you to say. Don't be afraid of them, for I am with you, and I will protect you." This message is from the LORD. Then the LORD reached out with his hand and touched my mouth. He said to me, "Jeremiah, I am putting my words in your mouth. Today I have put you in charge of nations and kingdoms. You will pull up and tear down. You will destroy and overthrow. You will build up and plant." The LORD'S message came to me: "Jeremiah, what do you see?" I answered, "I see a stick made from almond wood." The LORD said to me, "You have seen very well, and I am watching to make sure that my message to you comes true."

147. THE CALLING OF JEREMIAH (JEREMIAH 1:1-12)



"Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I *am* a child.
But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I *am* a child: for thou shalt go to all

that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.”

JEREMIAH 1:6-7

147. THE CALLING OF JEREMIAH

JEREMIAH 1:1-12

MEMORY VERSE:

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you....”

Plain English Verse: “Before you were formed in your mother’s body I knew you; before you were born I made you holy.” JEREMIAH 1:5

TRUE OR FALSE

1. In the 13th year of Josiah’s rule, the Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying “Before you were formed in your mother’s body I knew you, and before you were born I made you holy.” TRUE or FALSE
2. Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a child.” TRUE or FALSE
3. Then the Lord said to Jeremiah, “It is right for you to say, ‘I am a child’.” TRUE or FALSE
4. The Lord told Jeremiah, “Do not be afraid of them, for I will be with you, and I will protect you.” TRUE or FALSE
5. The Lord stretched out His hand and touched my eyes. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Did the Lord know Jeremiah after he was born, or before he was born?
2. What did the Lord want Jeremiah to do?
3. Was Jeremiah excited and happy that the Lord wanted him to say and do what He told him to say and do?
4. What did the Lord say to Jeremiah when he told the Lord that he was only a child?
5. Did the Lord want Jeremiah to be afraid of anyone or anything?
6. What did the Lord do to Jeremiah? Did He stretch out His hand and touch his mouth?

Lesson 147 Craft

Good News Frisbee Rings

For this craft, you will need a paper plate for each child. You may want to consider using smooth edged paper plates. You will also need markers or crayons and scissors. Using your scissors, poke a hole near the rim. Make your cut 1 to 1 1/2 inches from the edge. Cut out the middle of the paper plate leaving a ring. Using your markers or crayons, write "Jesus Loves You" around the edge. For younger children, you may need to help them with the writing. You may also decorate the Frisbee. Allow the children to toss the ring back and forth and tell each other, "Jesus loves you" as they do. God told Jeremiah that he would be a prophet to all the nations. God has also called us to go into all the nations and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-19). These Frisbee rings will help us to remember to spread the good news of Jesus' love for us.

ALTERNATE ACTIVITY:

Child of God

You will need several 3 x 5 cards, your chalkboard or dry erase board, and chalk or dry erase markers. This game is a variation of the old game "hangman," except no one is hung. Before you begin, write down several questions and answers on 3 x 5 cards to review today's lesson. Stand by your chalk/dry erase board. Choose one of the 3 x 5 cards and read the question to the class. Ask the children who think they know the answer to raise their hands. If the child knows the answer, ask him or her to come up to the board and draw a body part on the board (head, hand, eye, etc.). Next, allow that child to select the next card and read the question to the class (if they are at a reading age). Play until the class completes the "child of God" on the chalkboard.

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be available to answer God's call. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.