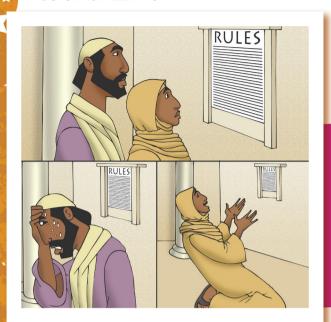
Middle Elementary • Grades 2-3

Lesson Scripture:

Jeremiah 22:1-10





Key Verse:

"'This is what the LORD savs: Do what is just and right. . . . Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood." (Jeremiah 22:3)

Changing Our Ways

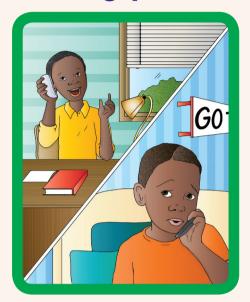
Jeremiah went to the king of Judah with a message. He told the king, his officers, and all the people in the city to listen carefully to the Lord God's message. God wanted them to do what was fair and right and protect those who had been mistreated. He wanted them to remember to be fair to the widows and orphans and to protect innocent people. If they obeyed this command, then the king who sat on the throne of David would be able to return to the palace. But, if they did not, then the palace would be destroyed.

God recognized the palace in Judah as a grand place, that was as magnificent as the cedar forests in Lebanon. But He promised to destroy the palace and make it a place in which no one could live. He promised to send in an army to destroy the palace completely.

When people from other nations passed by the city, they would ask why God had destroyed such a great city. It was because the people of Judah did not keep their agreement with God and worshipped other gods.



The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly



"Doing what's right isn't all that hard," Aiden said to his friend Quincy over the phone. "It can be fun sometimes."

"I just don't get you anymore. You used to be so much fun," Quincy commented. "But now you are boring. You aren't funny like before."

It hurt Aiden to hear his friend say those things about him, but he did not let it change his mind. When Aiden thought back on how his parents and teachers used to treat him, he did not want to go back.

"My parents let me stay up later and I don't have to have a hall monitor take me to the bathroom in school," Aiden said. "I get to play football on the school's team next year too!"

He never got to try out before because he acted up in class. And Aiden always wanted to be on the team. He

knew Quincy did too, but his friend would never change how he acted in school. He liked it when the other kids were laughing at what he did in class.

Aiden just wished he could change Quincy's mind.

Exploring the Story T





Hello, everyone! Ruby here! This is a great lesson about changing our behavior. Sometimes it's difficult to see the benefits of change. We become set in our ways and we are comfortable doing what we do—whether it is good or bad. Do you have any habits that you should change in order to have a better life? Do you think it would be too hard to change? Do you think you would lose your friends if you changed?

The benefits of change might outweigh the benefits of staying the same. Think about it . . . it might all be worth it!

Unscramble and Match

Unscramble each scrambled-up word below and then connect the word to its matching picture by drawing a line between the two.

1. **ALACPE** _____



2. **HRONET** _____

b.

a.



3. GTEAS

C.



4. RHSOES _____

d.



5. FEIR

e.



Searching for Words

Find the listed words from today's lesson in the word search below.

WORD BANK

EMPTY • JERUSALEM • JUDAH • MESSAGE

PALACE • PROPHESY • PUNISH • THRONE

