

Changing Our Ways

May 24, 2020—Lesson 13

Background Scripture: Jeremiah 22 • **Lesson Scripture:** Jeremiah 22:1-10

Key Verse: “This is what the LORD says: 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)

Lesson Objective: The students will begin to understand that justice needs to be present and practiced in the relationship between God and His people.

Materials Needed: *Middle Elementary* student books, Bibles (NIV), copier paper, pens, pencils, crayons, index cards, an instrumental praise music CD and CD player, scissors, a timer or stopwatch. (**Optional:** whiteboard and dry-erase markers; Older Children’s Resource Kit [attendance chart and lesson 13 materials].)

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BEGINNING THE JOURNEY



✂ If you purchased the Older Children’s Resource Kit, post the attendance chart and purchase stickers (such as stars) to place on the chart. Also, gather any materials that may be needed for any of the activities for this lesson prior to class (found in the Teacher’s Guide of the Resource Kit).

✂ Prior to class, print out today’s Key Verse in a large font; then cut up the verse into different phrases and place the phrase strips in a central location in the classroom.

Welcome and Worship

Welcome the students and their parents or guardians to the classroom. Acknowledge any visiting students. Open the class with a weekly check-in, letting students who desire to do so give a praise report or prayer request. Then pray or ask a volunteer to lead the class in prayer. Complete the roll call and then collect any offerings the students or any others may have brought.

Opening Activity

The students will participate in a “Word Scramble Bible Verse” activity. Place the cutout phrases comprising today’s Key Verse facedown on a table or workspace. Ask for a volunteer to flip the strips of paper over and unscramble the phrases/words from today’s lesson into the correct order. (To make this activity more challenging, ask for different volunteers to unscramble the words and use a stopwatch or timer to determine who completes the task in the fastest time.) Play until everyone has had a chance to participate.

Say: Today’s lesson is about how God was giving the people of Judah another chance to repent—say sorry—and do His will.

Discuss with the students how God warned the people to repent from doing wrong to others or face God’s destruction. Discuss with the students how God wants them to treat others by being kind and loving.

Prepare the children for the Bible story.

BIBLE VOYAGE



The Bible Story

You may choose to read today’s Scripture passage to the students from the Bible first. Then, using the student books, let volunteers take turns alternating reading different paragraphs of the Bible story aloud.

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.

After reading the story, discuss the following questions:

1. What did God warn the people to stop doing? (*He*

wanted the people to change their conduct and stop mistreating those who were weaker or more vulnerable than themselves.)

2. What punishment did God promise to hand down if the people continued doing wrong? (*He promised that He would destroy their city and leave it in ruins.*)
3. What did God plan to leave standing after His destruction of the city? (*He promised to leave the entire city a wasteland so that the people could not live there.*)

FUN EXPEDITIONS

Unscramble and Match

Give the students pencils and provide time for them to complete the activity in their student books. Assist as needed. After they complete the activity, review the answers aloud.

Answers: (1) palace (d); (2) throne (e); (3) gates (a); (4) horses (c); (5) fire (b)

The Contemporary Story

Read the story to the class, or let the students take turns alternating reading different paragraphs/sentences of the story aloud.

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.

Then, discuss the following questions:

1. What did Quincy want Aiden to do? (*He wanted Aiden to go back to acting up in class to make the other kids laugh.*)
2. Why did Aiden change his behavior? (*He changed his behavior because he was tired of getting into trouble.*)

3. Why do you think it was hard for Aiden to get his friend to change his ways? (*Responses will vary.*)

Exploring the Story in Ruby’s Lab

See if any students completed the assignment you gave in lesson 12: learning about *consequences*. Provide time for any students to share their findings; talk briefly about what it means for us to face consequences for our choices, then continue.

Let one or two students read Ruby’s words aloud. Discuss Ruby’s words with the students. Encourage the students to think of ways in which they can improve their own behavior. Help them realize the benefits of doing what is right. Help them understand that they will actually gain rather than lose out on anything by changing their behavior.

Searching for Words

Give the students pencils and provide time for them to complete the activity in their student books. Assist as needed. After they complete the activity, review the answers aloud.

M	P	U	N	I	S	H	B	E	P
J	U	D	A	H	P	A	E	T	R
E	V	T	J	Z	W	F	G	H	O
R	J	W	E	K	P	T	Y	R	P
U	K	P	R	E	C	W	E	O	H
S	S	E	V	S	P	H	S	N	E
A	Z	H	L	S	B	W	M	E	S
L	B	M	P	A	L	A	C	E	Y
E	R	W	E	G	L	D	H	A	E
M	S	E	F	E	N	M	K	L	E

ENDING THE JOURNEY

Bring the lesson to a close by reviewing the Key Verse and the lesson.

Ask: How are we supposed to treat those who are in need? What does God promise will happen to those who do not pay attention to His warning? (*Pause for responses and discussion.*)

Take the time to answer any remaining questions that the students might have. Ask for a volunteer to end the class session with prayer.

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Lesson Objective: The students will hear about how Daniel continued to pray and was not afraid when facing danger.

Materials Needed: *Upper Elementary* student books, Bibles, star stickers, pens and/or pencils, markers, coloring pencils, paper, a bag of candy, sturdy white card stock, gems, stickers, other decorating items, scissors, a hole puncher, yarn or ribbon. (**Optional:** Older Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 13 materials].)

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BEGINNING THE JOURNEY



✂ If you purchased the Older Children’s Resource Kit, post the attendance chart and purchase stickers (such as stars) to place on the chart. Also, gather any materials that may be needed for any of the activities for this lesson prior to class (found in the Teacher’s Guide of the Resource Kit).

✂ Prior to class, gather the supplies needed for today’s lesson and arrange the classroom to facilitate student participation in the opening activity.

Welcome and Worship

Arrive 15-20 minutes prior to class in order to lay out materials and supplies needed. Greet the students by name as they enter the classroom. Introduce yourself as the teacher and your assistant (if applicable). Ask for a volunteer to open the class session with a prayer. Collect any offerings the students may have brought and take attendance. (*Optional:* The attendance chart found in the Leadership Resource Kit for Older Children may be posted to keep attendance, placing a star sticker on the chart for each student every day of his or her presence in class.)

Opening Activity

Out of the bag of candy, set aside five (5) pieces less than the total number of students in the class. Pass around the candy bag and tell everyone that they can take one piece each. When the students discover the unfair situation and that there is not enough candy for everyone, pose to the class the following questions for discussion: (1) How did those students that did not get any candy feel? How about those that did? (2) What would be the fair solution to the problem? (3) Can you think of another situation when people might feel left out or rejected?

Discuss with the students how in today’s Scripture text, the prophet Jeremiah told the people that God wanted them to do what was right and fair.

Prepare the students for the Bible story.

BIBLE VOYAGE



The Bible Story

If you are not already doing so, encourage your students to bring Bibles to class. Have extra Bibles (*New International Version*) on hand, if possible.

Let the students read the Scripture passage from the Bible first. Then, have volunteers take turns alternating reading different paragraphs of the Bible story printed in their student books aloud.

Changing Our Ways

This is what the Lord God said to Jeremiah: “Go to the king of Judah and tell him, ‘Listen to this message from the LORD and let everyone around you listen too. Do what is just and fair. Do what is right! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors. Do not mistreat foreigners, orphans, and widows. Stop murdering the innocent! If you obey what I have said, then there will always be a descendant of David’s sitting on the throne in Jerusalem. But if you disobey, then this palace will be destroyed.’”

Now this is what the Lord said concerning Judah’s royal palace: “I love you as much as fruitful Gilead and the green forests of Lebanon, but I will turn you into a desert and no one will be able to live in your towns. I will send in people to destroy you. They will cut up your fine cedar beams and throw them into the fire. People from other nations will pass through the city and say to each other, ‘Why did the Lord destroy such a great city?’ And the answer will be ‘Because they did not keep their promise to the Lord and they worshipped and served other gods.’ Do not cry for the dead king. Instead, cry for the

Upper Elementary Reproducible

Lesson 13

Make a Bookmark

