

# 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*)

**Faith Block:** I will be better!

**Lesson Objective:** The children will begin to understand that the covenant relationship between God and His people requires justice.

**Materials Needed:** *Picture Lesson Cards*, Bible, a rug, line-art coloring pictures related to today’s lesson, copier paper, crayons, coloring pencils, blocks, books, other toddler toys for each class session, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 13 materials]).

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## A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ Prior to class, write or type the words “I’m sorry” in line-art block letters on a sheet of copy paper; then make enough copies of the sheet for each student to have one.

**Welcome:** Greet the parents as they bring their children into the room. Engage any children who arrive early—with blocks, books, and other toddler toys—in order to maintain their attention. Gather the children and help them settle down when you are ready to begin class.

**Opening Worship and Activity:** Let the children know that prayer time is when we talk to God. Tell the children to bow their heads and close their eyes, and then lead them in prayer.

Have the children sit down at the classroom table or let them sit on an area rug on the floor.

**Say:** Jeremiah wanted the people to say, “I’m sorry” to God and to do better. God wanted the people to change.

Pass out crayons and the “I’m Sorry” sheets to the children. Allow them time to color.

Prepare the class for the Bible story.

## B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

**The Bible Story:** Hold up the lesson 13 Picture Lesson Card for all the children to see.

**Say:** God wants us to change any bad behavior that we have so that we can be right and good.

Read or tell the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

### Changing Our Ways

In today’s Bible verses, God gave Jeremiah a message for

the king of Judah. Jeremiah told the king and all the people that God would give them one more chance to do right. They should be kind to strangers and children with no parents. They should be fair to widows. *Widows* are women whose husbands have died. They should protect innocent people.

If the people did these good things, then they would be blessed. But if they did not, then they would be attacked and the land of Judah would be destroyed.

God calls us to be kind and loving too.

## C STACKS OF FUN

**Changing Directions:** **Say:** If we are heading the wrong way, God wants us to change.

Show the children which direction is north, south, east, and west. Then have the children turn facing the different directions as you call them out. Do this several times as time permits.

☺ **Words from Pax the Penguin:** Present Pax to the class. (See the *Early Elementary* teacher book, *pages 35–36*, for suggestions on how to present Pax.) The script for Pax appears below.

**Pax:** Hello, girls and boys! As we heard in today’s story, how can we treat people justly or fairly? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes, we can stand up for what is right. Now, let’s thank God for helping us treat others right and fairly. Repeat after me: “Thank You, God (*pause*), for helping us be kind to everyone.” Good job, boys and girls.

Let Pax wave good-bye and/or hug the children.

## D CLOSING BLOCK

Review the lesson with the children. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you. Afterward, say the prayer on the Picture Lesson Card. Distribute the Picture Lesson Cards to parents/guardians when they arrive to pick up their children.

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**Faith Block:** I will do what is right!

**Lesson Objective:** The children will begin to understand and regret their own unjust actions toward others.

**Materials Needed:** *Preschool* student books, Bibles, star-shaped stickers, pencils, crayons or coloring pencils, markers, other art supplies, sturdy white card stock, glitter glue, glue, a stapler, scissors, tape, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 13 materials]).

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## A BEGINNING BLOCK

**Welcome:** Greet the children and parents with a warm and inviting smile. Thank the parents for bringing their children to class and tell the children how glad you are to see them.

**Opening Worship and Activity:** After the students are seated, open the session with prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings.

Lead the class in playing a clapping game: As the teacher, you may start out by slapping your lap or clapping your hands and having the children match your actions—changing the rhythm every so often for the children to match. (Example: If you clap three times, the children must imitate your clap rhythm, clapping three times.) Play until it is time for the lesson to start.

When you have completed the game, prepare the children for the Bible story.

## B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

**The Bible Story:** Read the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

### Changing Our Ways

God told Jeremiah to go to the palace of the king. God wanted Jeremiah to tell the king and the people to do what is *just* (fair) and right. They were supposed to protect the people who needed help and those who could not protect themselves. They must not kill those who are *innocent*, people who have not done anything wrong.

If they did what God said, they would keep being leaders of the people. But if not, God would take away their kingdom and destroy it.

If the rulers were doing wrong, they had to change their ways!

**Bible Story Application:** Refer to the lesson 13 Bible Story Application (*page 68*) and teach the children the read-aloud poem “Follow God’s Commands.”

☺ **Words from Pax the Penguin:** If you purchased Pax the Penguin, use the script printed in the *Early Elementary* teacher book for lesson 13 (*page 62*). See suggestions on how to present Pax on *pages 35–36* of this teacher book.

## C STACKS OF FUN

**A “Change Your Ways” Poster:** Have the children complete the activity, instructing them to trace the word *change* and color and decorate the poster. After they finish, lead the class to read the message together.

**The People Must Live Better Lives:** Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible story with them.

📄 **Make “Seeing Others’ Needs” Glasses:** Refer to the reproducible activity (*page 72*) and make a copy of the template for each child, using very sturdy white card stock. Distribute one copy to each child, and then pass out art supplies and direct the children to color and decorate the template (all parts of the glasses). Then help the children cut out each part of the glasses and glue, tape, or staple the “arms” of the glasses to their respective spots at the edges of the frame. Also help them cut out the center “lenses” of the frame so they can see through the holes. The children will have “glasses” that they can wear to help them remember to be kind and helpful to others.

## D CLOSING BLOCK

Say the Key Verse, and let the children repeat it after you. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you: “I will do what is right!” Then close the class session with prayer.

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**Faith Block:** I will be better!

**Lesson Objective:** The children will regret their own unjust actions toward others.

**Materials Needed:** *Early Elementary* student books, Bibles (NIV translation), pencils, crayons, coloring pencils, markers, happy-face stickers, masking or transparent tape (to post attendance chart), reward stickers, puzzles or coloring pages, a praise and worship music CD, CD player, an empty facial-tissue box, construction paper, small, white index cards, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 13 materials]).

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## A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ If you purchased Pax the Penguin, decide whether you or someone else will be the puppeteer. It is important that the children not see Pax placed on or taken off the puppeteer’s hand; this must be done discreetly and out of the children’s view.

✂ Prior to class, prepare a “Classroom Kindness Box.” Cover an empty facial-tissue box with construction paper. On small, white index cards, write acts of kindness that you have witnessed the children in your class do during this quarter. Write one act per card. Bring the cards to class.

## Welcome

Welcome the students and their parents or guardians. Take attendance, placing a sticker beside the name of each child (that is present) on the attendance chart. Engage early arrivers with activities (such as puzzles, coloring pages, or books) until you are ready to begin class.

## Opening Worship and Activity

**Say:** It is now prayer time. When we pray we talk to God. Let’s close our eyes and bow our heads.

Lead the children in prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings.

**Say:** You all have been doing a great job of showing kindness in the classroom. Let’s make a “Classroom Kindness Box.” I want you all to work together to decorate the box.

Pass out the decorating supplies to the children and allow time for them to work together to decorate the box. After the box is decorated, inform the children that you wrote

down some of their acts of kindness on cards. (Let the children see you putting the cards into the Kindness Box.)

**Say:** I want each of you to pull out a card. I will read the kind act on the card. You all must guess who did the act.

Have each child pull out a card; then you read it, and provide a brief amount of time for the children to identify the person who performed the act. Repeat this process for all the cards. After the activity, encourage the children to work toward doing all the acts of kindness in the box.

Prepare the children for the Bible story.

## B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

### The Bible Story

**Say:** In today’s Bible story, Jeremiah is giving a warning to the leaders of Judah. There are some things that God wanted the king and leaders to do. Listen carefully to find out what God wanted them to change.

Read the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

## Changing Our Ways

Jeremiah told the king and the people of Judah to listen closely. God wanted them to do what is right and fair. They must protect people from robbers. They must not hurt foreigners and innocent people. They must not harm orphans and widows. If they obeyed, then kings would continue to live in the palace. But if they did not obey, then the palace would be destroyed. It would become empty like a desert.

People from other nations would wonder what happened to the great city of Jerusalem. This is what happened: The

people stopped following God. They worshipped other gods. They would not change their ways.

**Ask:** What did God want the king and leaders of Judah to do? (*Do what's right and fair; protect people who were being robbed; not hurt foreigners and innocent people; not harm orphans and widows.*)

### Bible Story Application

Refer to the lesson 13 Bible Story Application (page 68) and teach the children the read-aloud poem “Follow God’s Commands.”

### ☺ Words from Pax the Penguin

If you purchased Pax the Penguin, make preparations to present him to the class. Create a distraction so that you or your assistant can discreetly bring out Pax. The script for Pax appears below.

**Pax:** Hello, everyone.

**Teacher (and Children):** Hello, Pax.

**Pax:** I have good news today! Remember the boy who wouldn’t stop being mean to the little boys at my school? Well, I’ve been praying for him and showing him kindness. And something wonderful happened!

**Teacher:** What happened, Pax?

**Pax:** He asked me why I was so kind to everybody. I told him that God is kind and loving. I shared with him everything that God does for me. Then I told him that God wants His children to share His kindness, fairness, and love with everyone. We talked every day last week about God and His love. And I noticed that he stopped being mean to the other kids.

**Teacher:** That’s wonderful, Pax! God’s love can change us.

**Pax:** Yes, I know! There are still some things I need to change. Sometimes I get angry and I don’t feel like sharing. What about you, boys and girls? Are there some things you need to change in your life? (*Pause for responses.*) God is able to change our ways. Let’s pray and work on it every

day. Then we will come back next week and share how we have changed. See you next week!

## STACKS OF FUN

### Fill in the Missing Letters

**Say:** Fill in the missing letters of each word from today’s Bible story. Choose from the letters in the Letter Bank. Then we will read the message together.

Allow time for the students to complete the activity, assisting as needed. Then review the answers aloud.

**Completed Message:** We must change our ways.

### The People Must Live Better Lives

Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible lesson with them.

## D CLOSING BLOCK

**Say:** In today’s Bible story, God was giving the people of Judah a chance to change their ways. Today, God blesses us when we are just and fair with others, and when we show kindness instead of harm. This week, pray and work hard to change the things that keep you from being kind, loving, and fair to others.

Read the Key Verse to the children and ask them to repeat it. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you; then prepare the students for the closing prayer.

**Pray:** Dear God, thank You for giving us a chance to change and make things right. Help us to show Your fairness, kindness, and love to others every day. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

As you wait for parents or caregivers to come for your students, here are some suggestions for things to do to keep the children occupied while they wait: (1) Have the children review their lesson leaflets, completing any unfinished activities. Make sure each child’s name is written somewhere on his/her leaflet. (2) Allow the children to help clean up the classroom before leaving class. (3) Allow for quiet play time if you have a room with an activity area. (4) Offer crayons and coloring sheets or paper for the children to draw on or allow them to work on puzzles together.

## Preschool Activities

### LESSON 13 PRESCHOOL

#### Make “Seeing Others’ Needs” Glasses

