



Materials I Need:

Memory Verse:

“For I know the plans I have for you, ‘declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11

Learning the Old Testament books of the Bible starting with Genesis.

The Prophet Jeremiah

The People Judah

The Prophecy Babylonian Captivity

The Principle Godliness is the goal, not popularity

Aim Questions:

1. How many years did God say the people would be captives in Babylon? Why were they going there?
2. What was Jeremiah’s dream about? Jeremiah 30:1-31:26
3. Where was Jeremiah placed by King Zedekiah?
4. What did Jeremiah buy while in prison? Why was this a strange thing to purchase at the time?
5. What did Jeremiah do with the deed of purchase? Why?
6. Christians are to trust God like Jeremiah did. What things should they be doing to prepare for living in God’s Kingdom? What are you doing to prepare? Why or why not?


Hook:


TAMBOURINES. Music Station...Obtain the “Songs From the Loft” album, it has several upbeat, contemporary songs. Have several musical instruments available, tape player and tape. Let the Bible students make a joyful noise. Join in with them! On a piece of poster board write Jeremiah 31:4.

“I WILL BUILD YOU UP AGAIN
AND YOU WILL BE REBUILT, O VIRGIN ISRAEL.
AGAIN YOU WILL TAKE UP YOUR TAMBOURINES
AND GO OUT TO DANCE WITH THE JOYFUL.”

MONOPOLY. Jeremiah bought property in today’s lesson. Bring in several boards and card sets for a quick version play. No money is needed. Players roll dice and travel around the board. When players land on an un-owned piece of property, it’s theirs. At the end of a predetermined time period (or when all the property is gone), the player who owns the most value in property wins. Give a \$100 bonus value for each Monopoly (a complete group of properties.) Keep track on a piece of paper or on a white board. Skip one turn when you go to jail. Community Chest & Chance are free spaces.

SIGNATURE. Use this sheet as an **overhead** to show the students different options using initials and titles (Mr. & Miss). Show the students how you sign your name and talk about occasions that call for a signature. Included are several large sample examples. Please order overhead 1 week in advance. **3JER23JR.GF1**


 **STUDENT'S SIGNATURE SHEET.** Have students practice signing their names on their own document. Emphasize to them the importance of their names and their signature. **3JER23JR.GF2**


 **DREAM ON.** Share a favorite dream you have had. Ask the Bible students to share the best dream they have ever had. Today we will hear about a very good dream that Jeremiah had.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

 **DOCUMENTS.** Bring in several documents with signatures on them (Deeds, Contract, Marriage License, etc.) Place them in some sort of container such as a lock box for safe keeping. Use during Adventure time.

 **REAL ESTATE.** Invite a real estate agent in to talk about buying a piece of property. Have them bring in documents you would need to sign and fill out. Ask the agent, would you buy a piece of property when you are getting ready to be carted off to another country, not knowing if you would ever come back?

Bible Adventure -

If you've ever had a bad burn on any part of your body, you know how painful it can be. Really bad burns require a doctor's attention. The doctor cleans the burn and removes any dead tissue before he decides what kind of medicine to use on it. Sometimes a burn can take a long time to heal, but eventually it does, and the pain is gone.

Sometimes God allows His children to go through painful experiences, too. We've learned from our study of the prophet Jeremiah that God was about to let the people of Judah go through a very hard time. God had been warning His people about their disobedient, sinful ways. They refused to listen to Jeremiah and the other prophets God sent to them. God kept warning the people and now, because they refused to listen, judgment was upon them. It was a certain thing. But God is a merciful God, too. Just as a doctor would encourage you and let you know that things were going to get better if you were burned or injured in some other way, God encouraged His people. God knew they would shortly be invaded and taken captive by the Babylonians. They would be held captive for 70 years. God gave them a promise to take with them and to encourage them. God not only promised to bring Judah back to their own land after the 70 years, but He also promised them a wonderful future restoration, when Israel and Judah would be returned to their land for good, be united as a nation, and renew their relationship with God. This great message of hope was shown to Jeremiah by God in a dream. God told Jeremiah to write down all of his prophecies in a book. God knew this book would give hope to His people not only at that time but down through the centuries. Jeremiah paints some wonderful word pictures of what this time will be like. It will be a time of joy, when Israel "takes up her tambourines and dances with the joyful." It will be a prosperous and peaceful time, when the people will be able to enjoy the fruit of their labor. And it will be a time when the people's hearts will be right toward God and they will offer Him true worship. How like God, to offer hope even to those who were busily rejecting Him!

At about the same period of time that Jeremiah had this dream, the armies of Babylon surrounded Jerusalem and were attacking. King Zedekiah had taken Jeremiah to the courtyard of the palace and was holding him prisoner there. Zedekiah did not like Jeremiah's prophecies. Jeremiah had predicted that the King of Babylon would capture the city of Jerusalem and Zedekiah, too. Zedekiah would be taken off to Babylon against his will. The wicked king was angry with Jeremiah for his predictions and thought Jeremiah was a traitor to his country for saying such things. Some had listened to Jeremiah and surrendered, but most stayed in the city. Each time Jeremiah spoke they became more angry, more frightened, and probably more discouraged.

Even while in prison God was able to use Jeremiah. God told His prophet that he would receive a visit from his cousin, Hanamel. Hanamel would come to Jeremiah and ask him to buy a field in their hometown of Anathoth. Hanamel was being forced to sell the land for some reason, and Jewish law at that time said that a relative should be the buyer so that the land would stay in the family. God told Jeremiah about this in advance so that Jeremiah would see God's hand in these happenings. You see, The city of Anathoth was under control of the Babylonians, so the request to buy the land would seem

rather foolish to buy land where the enemy was camped. But God's ways are never foolish; it is only that we sometimes do not fully understand the reasons behind what He asks. God had a reason for this request, too. Let's discover what that was. When Hanamel came, Jeremiah bought the field for 17 shekels of silver. Two copies of the deed of purchase for the land were signed and witnessed. Still following God's instructions, he had his friend Baruch seal both deeds in a clay jar so that they would last a long time. Then God told Jeremiah the reason for this request: After 70 years He would bring His people back to their own land. Just as Jeremiah purchased his cousin's land so that it would remain in the family, God would hold His people's land for their return. The deeds Jeremiah had preserved would prove his family's ownership of the land when they returned. He trusted that God would bring all these things to pass, and Jeremiah put his money where his trust was. Not so for Zedekiah, who kept on denying God would allow judgment to fall on Judah, even when soldiers were surrounding his city. He tried to silence Jeremiah and resisted the messages God sent through His prophet. God's will cannot be slowed or stopped, even by the mightiest of kings. The Babylonians still came, and Zedekiah still became their captive.

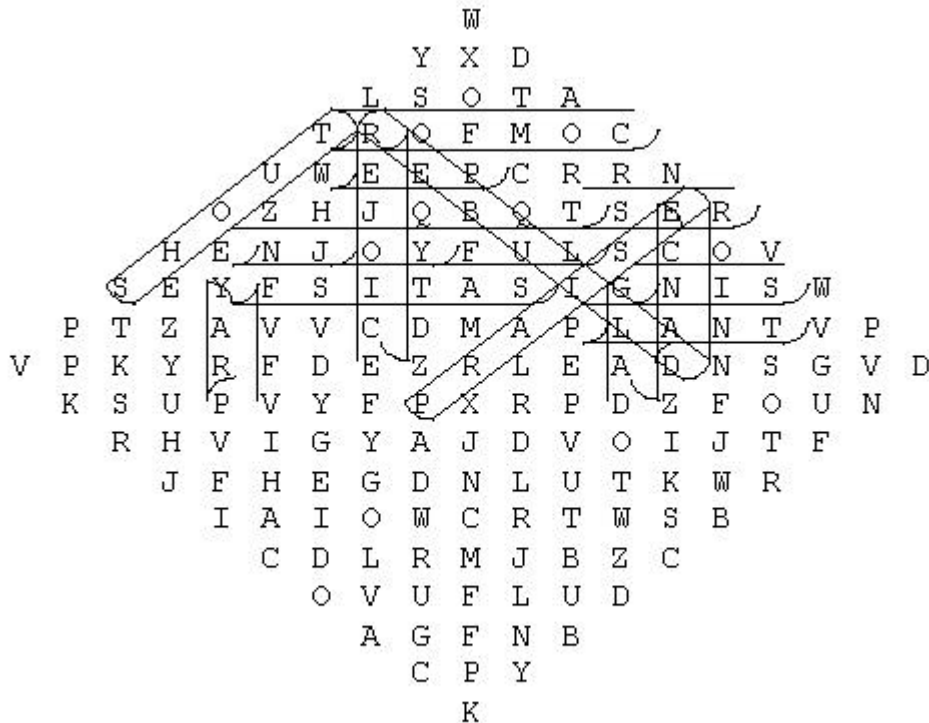
How do you react when you hear God's messages? Do you fight or try to ignore God's word, or do you place your trust in the truth of the message? Jeremiah's obedience to God had major effects not only on the people of his time, but also on others down through the years. Even today, we can learn through his example how important it is to be totally dependent on God. Can others learn those kinds of lessons from watching your life? What kind of preparations should a person be making to live in God's Kingdom? What are you doing every day to trust Him like Jeremiah did?





Look:



WORD SEARCH. Search Jeremiah 31:1-14 for words that describe how the Judeans would feel and what they'd do when they returned from Babylon. Possible answers: rest, rebuild, dance, joyful, plant, enjoy, sing, shout, weep, pray, praise, rejoice, glad, comfort, joy, satisfy. **3JER23JR.GF3**




 **SCRIBE.** Jeremiah was told to write things down by God in Jeremiah 30:1. Now, it's your turn to be a scribe. Listen to the teacher and copy down what he/she says. (You will need pen or pencils and a 1/2 sheet of parchment color paper for each Bible student.) Read Jeremiah 29:11 slowly to the Bible students as they copy it down. Scribe away! Check their copies for accuracy. It was very important to get it exact, especially when it is God's Word.


 **REAL ESTATE BROCHURE.** Bring in several "free" real estate magazines. Have Bible students cut out several pictures of homes they like. Glue them onto one side of a sheet of construction paper folded in half so it opens at the bottom. It will stand up like a place card. Cut out the verse cards and attach them also. To complete this page, have students place their signature blocks in the bottom right-hand corner and sign. Print verse/signature cards on colored paper to add color to the page. **3JER23JR.GF4**




Took:

 **4 P's.** The four P's is a little ditty to help you remember the prophet, people, prophecy, and principle of each book of the Old Testament that we are studying this year. You can jump rope to each little ditty if you can do that rhythm thing!

The Prophet is Jeremiah
The People are from Judah
The Prophecy . . . God's Punishment
Exile . . . to Babylon
The Principle . . . godliness goal
Popularity No!
These are the 4 P's
Got 'em from Jeremiah
Now it's time . . . to jump out.

 **DEED OF PURCHASE GAME.** Cut apart 2 pages of cards for each group of three students. (It's also possible to play in pairs.) Remove one of the "Field of Anathoth" cards so that there is only one per game. Deal all the cards. Students take turns drawing a card from the hand of the player to their right. When a pair is made, both cards are laid down on the table. When all the cards are on the table, the person holding the "Field at Anathoth" card is the winner. This is the reverse of "Old Maid". The reverse side of this activity sheet is so that if you don't use card stock the cards will not be see-through. **3JER23JR.GF5**

 **APPLICATION POINT.** Two responses to God's word are graphically demonstrated here. Zedekiah preferred to stifle and resist God's message. Try as he did, the Babylonians still came, and Zedekiah still went into captivity. His avoidance in no way stopped God's word from coming to pass. Jeremiah on the other hand, trusted God even beyond what would be his natural life span. By obeying God and redeeming the land, Jeremiah demonstrates a dependence upon God's Word that sets in motion things that we may never see with our mortal eyes. What are you like? Do you resist God's word to the point of absurdity as Zedekiah? [The soldiers were knocking at the door, and he still wanted to pretend God would not punish their sin.] Or...are you like Jeremiah even willing to set in motion traditions of faith that will effect those who may not even have been born yet?
3JER23JR.GF3

Joe A. Student

Miss Sarah Honor Student

Mr. Leo Pracy

Mrs. Hope Full

Master Seymour O. Babylon

Place Your Signature here.

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JEREMIAH 31:1-14

WORD SEARCH

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

Search through Jeremiah 31:1-14 for words that describe how the Judeans would feel and what they'd do when they returned from Babylon.



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Jeremiah 29:11

SIGNATURE BLOCK

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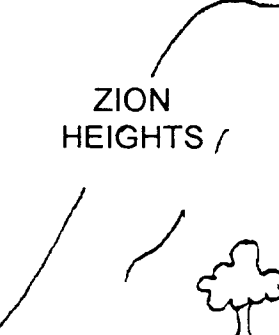

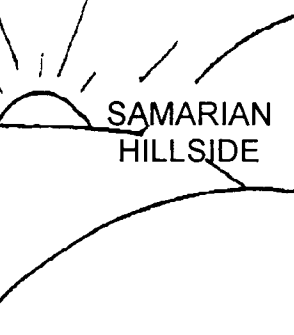
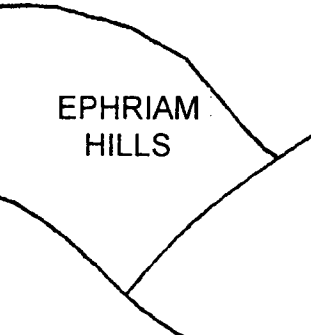
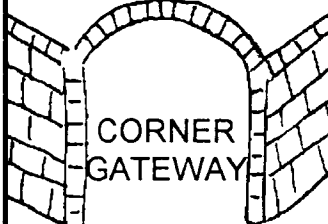
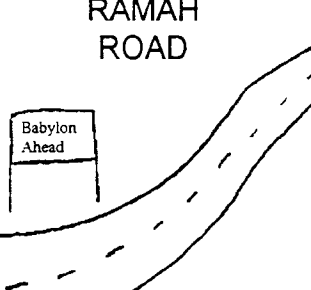
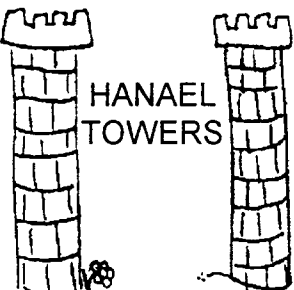

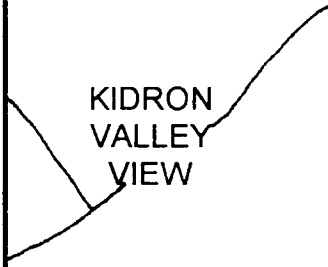

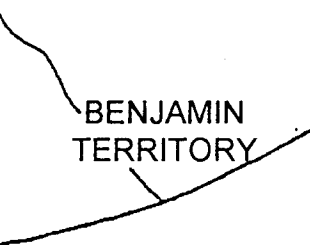


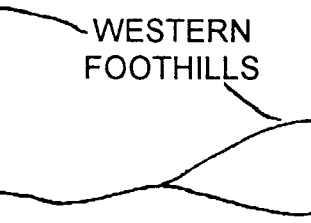
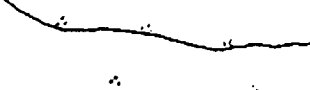
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Cut apart each group of blocks. Give one set to each Bible student. Have the students cut their own blocks in half. The Signature Block goes in the lower right hand corner. The verse goes where ever they put it on their page.

<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>ZION HEIGHTS</p> 	<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>JACOB'S PLACE</p> 	<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>SAMARIAN HILLSIDE</p> 	<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>EPHRIAM HILLS</p> 
<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>CORNER GATEWAY</p> 	<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>RAMAH ROAD</p> <p>Babylon Ahead</p> 	<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>HANAEL TOWERS</p> 	<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>HILL OF GAREB</p> 
<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>KIDRON VALLEY VIEW</p> 	<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>JERUSALEM WAY VINEYARD</p> 	<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>BENJAMIN TERRITORY</p> 	<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>GOAH VILLAGE</p> 
<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>HILL COUNTRY PASTURE</p> 	<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>WESTERN FOOTHILLS</p> 	<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>THE NEGEV</p> 	<p>DEED OF PURCHASE</p> <p>FIELD AT ANATHOTH</p> 