

March 9, 1997
3rd-6th Grades
God Lets Us Feel Sad When We Sin

Lamentations 5
3LAM26JR

Lamentations



Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

Learning the Old Testament books of the Bible

The Prophet Jeremiah

The People Exiled Jews

The Prophecy Sin Makes Everything Sad

The Principle God Lets Us Feel Sad When We Sin

Aim Questions:

1. Who wrote Lamentations? [Jeremiah] Did Jeremiah write any other books of the Old Testament?
2. Lamentations 1-11 is sad. Of all the problems Jeremiah lists, which do you think is the worst? Why?
3. In Lamentations 2:1-5, what image does Jeremiah use? Was God really the enemy of Judah? [God opposes sin, not his people.]
4. Read Lamentations 3:21-23. What was Jeremiah saying here? What did he mean when he said that God's compassions "were new every morning"?
5. What should we do when our sin makes us sad? What if someone knowingly sins but doesn't feel sad?

Hook:


Sad Touch. Sit in a circle and have the teacher say, "I'm going to tell a very sad story but when I tap someone else on the knee they must continue the "sad" story." Anyone sitting in the circle can be tapped. Try to include everyone.

Mark Twain Quote. Has anyone ever heard of Mark Twain, how about Tom Sawyer or Huckleberry Finn? Mark Twain wrote about Tom & Huck. Listen to this quote from Mark Twain:

"Of all the lands there are for dismal scenery, I think Palestine must be the prince. The hills are barren, they are dull of color, they are unpicturesque in shape. The valleys are unsightly deserts fringed with a feeble vegetation that has an expression about it of being sorrowful and despondent...Every outline is harsh, every feature is distinct, there is no perspective-distance works, no enchantment here. It is a hopeless, dreary, heartbroken land."

Debrief: Find Palestine on a map. Where is it? What is it near? What is the significance? (Prophecy fulfilled!) How has it changed since Mark Twain wrote his observations?


Music. Listen to any song or spoken selection recorded in the Hebrew Language. (Hava Nagilia)


 **Musical.** Hand out musical instruments to play and encourage singing & dancing. When the teacher says, "The Babylonians are coming!" everyone must stop and be very sad and tearful. The last one to stop is out. The winner can receive a big yellow construction paper "sad" face or sticker.




Book:

Presentation Ideas -

 **Hebrew Alphabet.** Have the Bible students open their Bibles and explain to them the poetic format of Lamentations. Use the overhead as an aid. **3LAM26JR.GF1**

 **Desolate Land.** This is a drawing of what a desolate land might look like. Use with the Bible Adventure. **3LAM26JR.GF2**

 **Review.** See if the Bible students recognize anything in this drawing. (linen belt, good/bad figs, yoke) Can they remember what book it's from? Reward students' correct answers with a piece of candy. **3LAM26JR.GF3**

Bible Adventure -

(Show the picture of the devastated field) Jeremiah could not stop the tears that were flowing down his cheeks. He looked around him and everything was ruined, like the rotten linen belt. (Show the belt) The temple was burned down and no one celebrated happy feasts or met with God there. All the people were gone to Egypt or Babylon. The crops were out in the fields with no one to harvest the grain or fruit. Jeremiah sometimes sat with his head in his hands and said, "We deserved all of this. The Lord has done what He said He would do." God always keeps His word. He always punishes sin by letting us have the consequences of our sin. Jeremiah said, "All of this has happened because we were not just and fair. People listened to the false prophets and false priests who gave the wrong message to them. They said, "There's nothing wrong with us. We don't need to change to God's right ways. We are all right just the way we are." False prophets and false priests twist God's words around so they don't have to change to God's righteous ways.

Jeremiah looked around Jerusalem. The elders, who used to talk about business plans at the city gate, were gone, taken to Babylon. The young men who used to play their musical instruments were gone. They were either killed in battle or were taken to Babylon. There was no music. The joy was gone from the "queen" city. Jerusalem used to be like a powerful queen ruling over all the surrounding cities. People from all nations knew about the Israelites' God who did great things in nature. Now the "queen's" crown had fallen from her head. Her hands were bound with chains and she was taken as a slave to Babylon.

It was sin that ruined Jerusalem. It is always sin that brings ruin. The Israelites loved their idols more than God. They would not stop coveting and stealing what didn't belong to them. Jeremiah thought about the yoke that God had asked him to put on his neck. Do you remember when Jeremiah warned the people that if they didn't change to God's right ways, the Babylonians would become a yoke to them? Jeremiah said, "Judah's sins are like that yoke. Those sins have come down upon our necks. They are heavy and make our heads hang down. They make us like slaves. Those sins make us grieve."

People from Edom would ride by Jerusalem on their donkeys and look at the ruins of what used to be the palace and the temple. They would laugh and say, "Ha! Is this the city that used to be called the joy of the earth? Is this the city that used to be called the "queen" of the cities? Where is her music now? Where is her joy now? Ha! Her God didn't help her!" The Edomites were glad that Jerusalem was ruined. People from Egypt would walk by and laugh at the Israelites. They said, "Ha! Ha! You thought you were so great! Now look at you! You are nothing!" Jeremiah heard these words and was sad. He knew that the Israelites had been proud of themselves, not of God, and that was why punishment had come. He had warned and warned the people but they didn't listen. His head and his heart were heavy and downcast. Jeremiah almost lost hope.

Then he remembered one thought. You can find it in Lamentations 3:21-23. "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope. Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." What was Jeremiah saying here?

What did he mean when he said that God's compassions "were new every morning?" He meant that even though God's punishment was severe and it seemed as though His people would never recover from it, there was hope for them. They were still God's covenant people. There was no way God was ever going to abandon them. He had a new, fresh supply of love for His people every morning. God's people could hope in their future restoration, when God would bring the "good fig", the Israelites, back to Jerusalem." Jeremiah remembered the field he had bought from his cousin. The receipt deed was still in the clay pot waiting for him. Jeremiah knew there was hope.

When our sins make us feel heavy inside, who can we place our hope in? It is the Savior, Jesus Christ, who takes away our sins. Remember Jeremiah's name for the Savior? The Lord Our Righteousness. When we love Jesus, He is our righteousness and helps us change to God's righteous ways.

Prayer: Dear God, You let the Israelites have what they deserved so they would turn to You for help. You are our Savior, too. Help us do what is just and right. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Look:



Sad Story. You have 5 minutes to write a very sad story. If you can, write your short story in a poetic form and try to make everyone in the room sad! If you're really feeling creative, start each line by using the alphabet in order as Jeremiah did. If you make yourself sad, WOW! Verses 1-11 of Lamentations is a sad writing, listen & mentally list all the problems.



ABC's. The ABC's of Jeremiah's sadness. Have the students fill in A-Z on the handout. Fill out the page with something besides a pencil; such as alphabet cereal or alphabet pastas from the dry soup section. The cereal could be fun because it can double as a snack. These would need to be purchased on your own. 1 box of cereal should be figured for every 6-8 students. **3LAM26JR.GF4**



LAMENTATIONS. Make as many words as you can out of LAMENTATIONS. They must be three letters or more. **3LAM26JR.GF5**



Sad Judah. What did Jerusalem used to be referred to as? (the "Queen" of the cities) Why do you think that was true? Why is she no longer referred to as the "Queen"? **3LAM26JR.GF6**



Took:



Jumpin' 4 P's. This is our jump rope rap. All you need is a long piece of rope and plenty of breath! This can be used as a rap if you leave the last line off and repeat the second to the last line.

The Prophet is Jeremiah
The People are exiled Jews
The Prophecy - - - Sin makes everything sad
The Principle - - - God lets us feel sad
- - - when we sin.
These are the 4 P's
Got 'em from Lamentations
Now it's time to jump out!



Punished. List the different uses of punishment your parents and teachers use while training you to behave. What is your reaction to the punishment? Read Lamentations 3:39-40. Share your responses in your small groups. Now, discuss what your response should be when you are punished. Your response will have a great impact on what kind of person you become.



Jeremiah Revisited. Divide the class into 3-4 groups and provide some sort of buzzer device for each group. There are 16 questions, ask them and award a point for each correct answer. The

points you award can be construction paper sad faces. The team with the most sad faces wins!!! Perhaps they can be awarded yellow happy face stickers. **3LAM26JR.GF7**

Aim Questions. Work on the aim questions in your small groups!

My choice of sin forces God to discipline me!



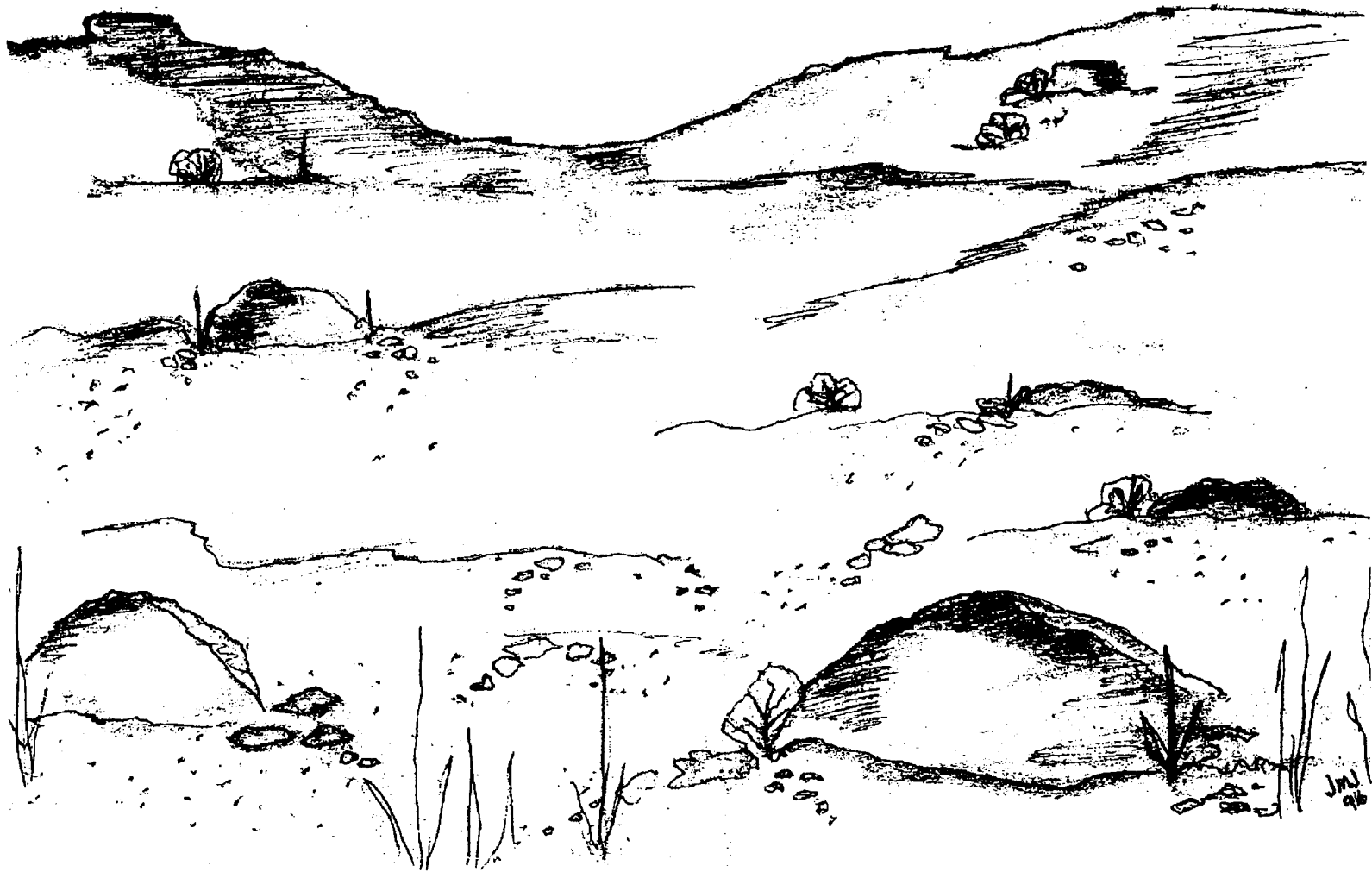
The book of Lamentations is a collection of poems. They are the personal expression of Jeremiah's grieving heart. You will notice that chapters 1, 2, and 4 each have 22 verses. Chapter 3 also has 22 six-line verses (there are 3 numbered verses in each poetic verse). The reason for this is that there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet. If you were reading these poems in Hebrew, you would see that the first verse in each poem starts with the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet. The second verse starts with the second letter, and so on. Lamentations is Jeremiah's ABCs of sadness.

THE HEBREW ALPHABET

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| א | ב | ג | ד | ה | ו | ז | ח | ט | י | כ |
| ל | מ | נ | ס | ע | פ | צ | ק | ר | ש | ת |

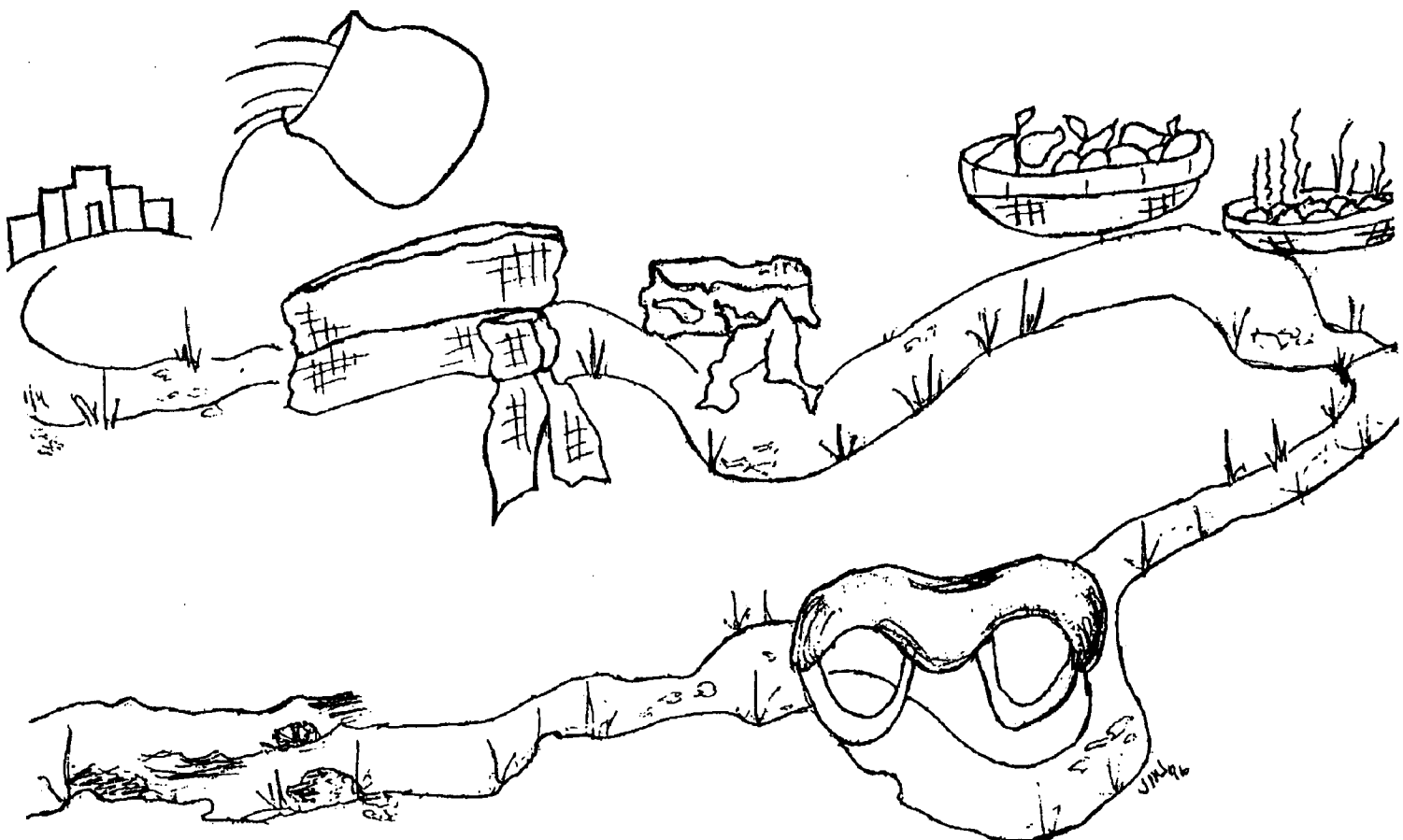
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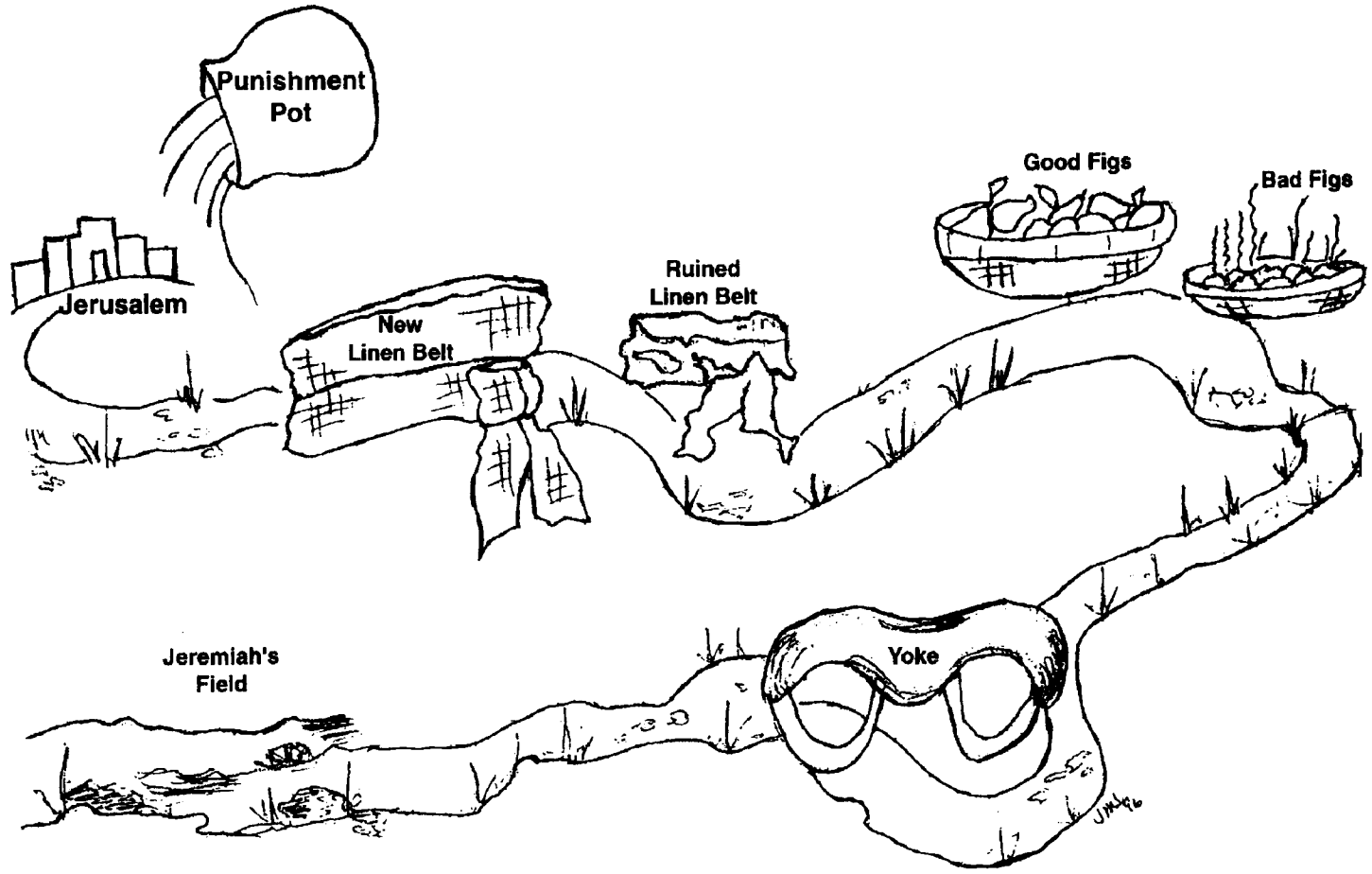
THE HEBREW ALPHABET



3LAM26JR.GF2

**This whole country will become a desolate wasteland. Jeremiah 25:11
All this happened because you people sinned against the Lord and did not obey Him. Jeremiah 40:3**





The **ABCs** of Jeremiah's Sadness

_____ is for **A**nguish and
Affliction

_____ is for **N**o one to comfort and
No one to help

_____ is for **B**itterness

_____ is for **O**verthrown

_____ is for **C**rushed in
Captivity

_____ is for **P**itfalls and
Punishment

_____ is for **D**estroyed and
Despised

_____ is for **Q**ueen becomes a slave

_____ is for **E**nemies

_____ is for **R**ejected

_____ is for **F**amine and
Filthiness

_____ is for **S**uffering and
Silence

_____ is for **G**roaning

_____ is for **T**ears and
Torment

_____ is for **H**ardship

_____ is for **U**nclean

_____ is for **I**nsults and
Iniquities

_____ is for **V**engeance

_____ is for **J**erusalem has sinned

_____ is for **W**eary and
Wandering

_____ is for **K**ingdom in dishonor

_____ is for **X**-iled

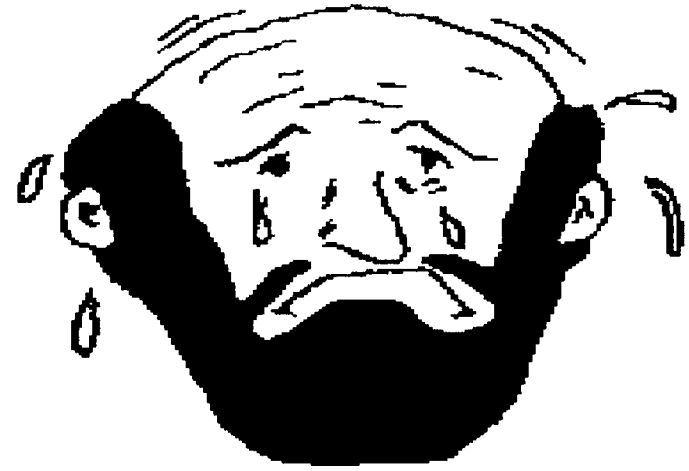
_____ is for **L**abor and
Lamentation

_____ is for **Y**oke

_____ is for **M**aidens grieve

_____ is for **Z**ion mourns

LAMENTATIONS



Jeremiah

AIM QUESTIONS

1. Who wrote Lamentations?
2. Lamentations 1–11 is sad. Of all the problems Jeremiah lists, which do you think is the worst? Why?
3. In Lamentations 2:1–5, what image does Jeremiah use? Was God really the enemy of Judah?
4. Read Lamentations 3:21–23. What was Jeremiah saying here? What did he mean when he said that God's compassions were new every morning?
5. What should we do when our sin makes us sad?

How many words can you make from LAMENTATIONS?

SAD JUDAH



Jeremiah Review Questions

1. Jeremiah was known as the _____ prophet.
2. Jeremiah spoke to the people of _____ .
3. What was the item of clothing God told Jeremiah to hide in the rocks?
4. When the potter found a mistake in the pot he was making, what did he do with the clay?
5. What item did Jeremiah throw down in front of the leaders of Jerusalem?
6. When Jeremiah talked about bad shepherds, who did he mean?
7. A certain fruit was used to illustrate the remnant of people that God would bless in captivity. What was that fruit?
8. What did Jeremiah wear on his neck as a sign that God wanted his people to submit to serving Babylon?
9. Who was the last king of Judah?
10. What other prophet predicted the fall of Jerusalem before Jeremiah? (It may have saved Jeremiah's life).
11. How many years would the captives from Judah be held in Babylon?
12. Jeremiah bought something from his cousin in Anathoth. What was it?
13. After the time to repent had passed, there was still a way for the people of Jerusalem to survive. What was it?
14. Jeremiah was stuck in the mud. Who was stuck in a different way?
15. What was the name of Babylon's king?
16. When we last saw Jeremiah, what country was he in?