

ANTIOCH CHICAGO
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT I THEME – JEREMIAH AND THE PROMISE OF RENEWAL

LESSON TOPIC

WHO? ME?

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Early Ministry of Jeremiah

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Jeremiah 1:1-10; 6:10-11; 8:18; 9:2; 26:1-24

LESSON PASSAGE

Jeremiah 1:6-10; 26:8-9, 12-15

LESSON TEXT

- I. Divine Call Meets Human Inadequacy – (Jeremiah 1:6-8)
- II. Prophetic Authority and Empowerment – (Jeremiah 1:9-10)
- III. Faithful Witness Amid Opposition – (Jeremiah 26:8-9, 12-15)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. (Jeremiah 1:7, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Sometimes we are called on to lead in situations for which we do not have adequate experience. How should people respond when they lack the necessary expertise to complete a task? When God calls Jeremiah, he objects that he is “too young” to carry out the prophetic task, and yet God’s sufficiency and purpose came to bear despite Jeremiah’s reservations.

LESSON AIM

To show God’s calling on our lives may cause us to question if we are equipped to do what God has called us to do. Especially, if what we have been assigned comes with opposition from those of great authority. Jeremiah doubted his ability in this lesson, but God assured him He would provide all he needed. Even when faced with opposition, Jeremiah delivered God’s Word to His people.

LIFE AIM

Sometimes the task assigned by God for us to do might cause us to question our ability or worthiness to complete our assigned task. When this happens, we must trust God to see us through, even when there arises opposition – know that we have been appointed and anointed for the assigned task.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PURPOSE STATEMENT

To teach the life-changing power of God’s Word resulting in salvation to the lost, transformed lives, and renewed and strengthened relationships in Jesus Christ. – (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

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LESSON TOPIC

WALK THE TALK

UNIFYING TOPIC

Jeremiah Calls the People to Obedience

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Jeremiah 7:1-26

LESSON PASSAGE

Jeremiah 7:1-11, 21-23

LESSON TEXT

- I. A Call to Authentic Covenant Living – (Jeremiah 7:1-4)
- II. The Integration of Worship and Ethics – (Jeremiah 7:5-11)
- III. Obedience Over Ritual – (Jeremiah 7:21-23)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

This command I gave them: “Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people; and walk only in the way that I command you, so that it may be well with you.” (Jeremiah 7:23, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Some people will act one way in one setting, but in a different setting, they will act out different standards. What can we say to people caught pretending to be something they are not? Jeremiah is compelled to speak out against Judah’s duplicity for standing in God’s house and saying, “We are safe! – only to continue in their sin once they leave their place of worship.

LESSON AIM

It shows why the LORD instructed Jeremiah to stand at the Temple gate entrance and inform Judah that their current disobedient lifestyle was a contempt for God. If they did not amend their ways and repent, they would surely experience harsh punishment from the LORD.

LIFE AIM

It shows that we must not take God for granted, but worship Him wholeheartedly with all our heart, mind, and soul.

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LESSON TOPIC

PROMISES, PROMISES

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Story of the Rechabites

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Jeremiah 35:1-19

LESSON PASSAGE

Jeremiah 35:5-11

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Test of Fidelity – (Jeremiah 35:5-6)
- II. The Power of Ancestral Commands – (Jeremiah 35:7-8)
- III. Demonstration of Sustained Obedience – (Jeremiah 35:9-11)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, that he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment: notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye hearkened not unto me. (Jeremiah 35:14, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People find it challenging to keep their promises. Who can we trust to keep their promises? The discipline of the Rechabites, who kept the promises made by their leader (see 1 Chronicles 2:55), is set up as a foil to Judah's disobedience to God.

LESSON AIM

It shows how God sent Jeremiah to invite a biblical-nomadic clan to the Temple to use the faithfulness of the Rechabites to demonstrate to Judah their unfaithfulness at a time when God was calling them to be faithful.

LIFE AIM

To show that as God's people, we may face peer pressure or social influence, but if we are truly called by Him, we must not let anyone or anything lead us away from what God has called us to be and do.

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LESSON TOPIC

THE HEART WANTS WHAT THE HEART WANTS

UNIFYING TOPIC

God's Law in the Heart

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Jeremiah 31:1-40; John 1:17; Hebrews 8:7-13

LESSON PASSAGE

Jeremiah 31:29-34; John 1:17

LESSON TEXT

- I. Personal Accountability Before God – (Jeremiah 31:29-30)
- II. Carry God's Law in Your Heart – (Jeremiah 31:31-33)
- III. Fulfillment of the New Covenant – (Jeremiah 31:34; John 1:17)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Jeremiah 31:33, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People often blame others for their poor behavior. What compels us to accept responsibility for our behavior? God tells Jeremiah that the people will be without excuse because, "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts," therefore God will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

LESSON AIM

To show that God desires that our relationship with Him will grow so that we will not allow anyone or anything to come between Him and His desire to be our God. When that day comes, His children will no longer dwell on past hardships but will rejoice in the renewal and closeness brought by the new covenant.

LIFE AIM

To show that every believer must remember that God is faithful and keeps His promises – not based on others' actions, but on our personal relationship with Him. God desires that we know and love Him deeply.

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