



# God Calls Jeremiah

**Goal:** To practice telling about God's love.

## RECOGNIZING GOD'S GRACE . . .

### . . . In Jeremiah 1:4-10

Jeremiah endured suffering as God's prophet. What sustained him? His call from God. Here he recognized he was being set apart to serve God. In this account, we see several stages.

First, Jeremiah recognized God's commissioning. God said, "Before I created you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I set you apart; I made you a prophet to the nations" (1:5, CEB). God chose Jeremiah, even before his birth, to carry out God's work. This is the deepest sense of purpose imaginable. But then Jeremiah objected. He said he didn't know how to speak and was only a child (v. 6).

Yet God reassured Jeremiah. God said not to be afraid; that wherever he went, "I'm with you to rescue you" (v. 8). This was a divine reassurance that no matter how bad things got, Jeremiah could depend on the presence and protection of God.

Finally, to make this real, God gave Jeremiah a sign. God "stretched out his hand, touched my mouth, and said to me, 'I'm putting my words in your mouth'" (v. 9).

God's grace called and protected Jeremiah. He spent his life in gratitude for God's grace and in obedience to God's call.

### . . . In Your Children's Experiences

Children probably have many experiences of hearing a parent or other adult call them with a job for them to do. "Hey, I need your help." Children of all ages will be able to tell a story about ways they help out and chores they do. You might ask, "Is there a job you don't think you could do?" or "Are there jobs at home or school or in the neighborhood that you don't like to do?" These questions will help make the transition to telling the story of Jeremiah and understanding his response to God's call to him to be a prophet.

### . . . In Your Relationships with the Children

As the children arrive, involve them in helping you with something for the session. Let them assist you with getting out supplies for the learning activities or putting out the Bible or candle. As you involve them in getting the room ready, you could talk with them about the ways they help out at home. What jobs do they have to do at home or at school or in their neighborhood?

As you tell the story of Jeremiah and his reluctance to believe he could do what God was asking, remind the children that whenever they have tough jobs to do, God is with them.

*Dear God, open my ears to your call and  
give my feet strength to respond. Amen.*



## Supplies

### Music & Melodies

[bit.ly/GGGMusicMelodies](http://bit.ly/GGGMusicMelodies)

### Stories, Colors & More (SCM) i–iv, 12, 17, 21

basic supplies  
(see p. vii)

internet-connected  
device

blanket or mats

snack

copies of **Grace Notes (GN) 1**

basket

puppets from “Guided Play” choice 1

name tags from  
“Guided Play” choice 3

## Exploring

choice 2: copies of **GN 2**

choice 3: copies of  
**GN 3–4**

choice 4: copies of **GN 5**

Writing each child’s name is important. Children like to see their name written. It gives them a sense of identity and inclusion in the activity.

## GATHERING IN GOD’S GRACE

### Before the Children Arrive

Designate a story corner and lay out a blanket or individual mats for the children so their backs will be to the door.

Use **SCM i–ii**, “Your Visual Schedule,” to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for the group.

See **SCM iii–iv** for the key to icons (for example, **LG T**) and ways to adapt for children who have special needs or disabilities.

Select the activities that will work best for you and for your children. You do not need to do everything suggested!

### Welcoming and Guided Play



Greet children as they arrive and say, “Grace and peace be with you.” Prompt them to respond, “And also with you.” Introduce yourself to parents/caregivers you do not know personally. Tell them today’s story is about Jeremiah, a young boy who was called to be a prophet, a messenger for God.

Invite the children to choose a guided-play activity to start:

1. **Making Puppets**—Provide lunch-sized paper bags and craft supplies such as crayons, construction paper, yarn, glue sticks, and fabric scraps. Help the children create paper-bag puppets. Encourage the children to make faces on the bottom of the bag. Drawing the mouth, half on the bottom and half on the bag, allows the puppet to “talk” when the hand is flapping the bottom. They can glue on hair with yarn or paper. Encourage them to be creative. Set aside for “Hearing the Story.”
2. **Tell a Message**—Tell the children that they are going to take turns telling a message to the class. Explain that they can share the message by saying it, singing it, shouting it, or whispering it. Invite a child to come to you, and tell that child a message to share with the rest of the children. Remind them that they can choose how to share that message.
3. **Making a Name Tag**—Write each child’s name in large letters on a sheet of paper. Invite them to decorate their name with markers, crayons, stickers, and other decorative items. Punch holes in the two top corners of the paper, thread yarn through the holes, and hang each child’s name tag around their neck. Invite the children to wear their giant name tags to “Hearing the Story.”

**T** *Transitions can be difficult for children. Do not force reluctant children to join a group activity. Instead, allow them to observe quietly from their own play area or to listen to a story read to them by an adult helper until they are ready to join the group.*



## Transitioning to Story Time

When you sense the children are ready to move into group time, call them to the story corner, singing “Hello, Hello! How Are You?”—**SCM 21**. Repeat words and phrases as it seems appropriate.

### Following Directions

T B M MS L

Cut apart strips on **GN 1**, fold, and place in a basket. Tell the children that they are going to take turns following directions. Invite the children to take turns picking a strip from the basket. Read their strip and have them follow the directions. Put the strips back in the basket and play again.

### Big and Little

T L

Place a line of tape on the floor. Invite the children to stand on the line. Tell them that one side is the “I can do it!” side, and the other is the “I’m too little!” side. Use the following suggestions or choose your own to let the children see that they can do many things.

- ▼ Drive a car.
- ▼ Brush my teeth.
- ▼ Pick up toys.
- ▼ Smile to make someone feel better.
- ▼ Climb a tree.
- ▼ Tell a story.



Today’s story can be found in *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible*, edited by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Wehrheim (Louisville, KY: Flyaway Books, 2018), [www.pcusastore.com](http://www.pcusastore.com).

### Hearing the Story

L B

Go around the circle, pointing to each child’s name tag and saying, “(Name), you are God’s messenger. You can tell others about God!” Tell them that they are going to hear a story about one of God’s messengers and his message to God’s people. Open the Bible to Jeremiah 1 so the children know the story comes from the Bible.

Tell the children that they are going to hear a story about the prophet Jeremiah. Explain that a prophet is a person called by God to be God’s messenger. Tell them that Jeremiah is different from many prophets in the Bible because he is a young boy! Invite the children to listen to what Jeremiah sees, hears, and does.

Read **SCM 12**. Express the emotions of the story in your voice, gestures, and facial expressions. Conclude the story by prompting the children to say, “Amen.”

Read the story again, inviting the children to use their puppets made in “Guided Play” choice 1 to play the part of Jeremiah when he talks with God, and what Jeremiah says when he acts as God’s messenger.



## EXPLORING GOD'S GRACE

### 1. Growing Up

B M MS

Engage the children in conversation, using the following questions. Invite the children to act out appropriate actions to their responses.

- ▼ What does a baby do?
- ▼ What does a toddler do?
- ▼ What can you do now that you couldn't do when you were a baby? A toddler?
- ▼ What things do grownups do?
- ▼ What do you think you will be able to do soon?

Remind the children that Jeremiah shared messages from God with people. Wonder together:

- ▼ What have you told other people about God?
- ▼ What can you tell other people about God today?

Remind the children that Jeremiah was a young boy and he didn't think he could do the job God wanted him to do, but God helped him.

### 2. Megaphone Message

LG FM

Make a copy of GN 2 for each child. Explain what a megaphone is and what it is used for. Invite the children to color their megaphones. As the children decorate the megaphone, read the words printed on it and remind them that these are messages that Jeremiah shared with the people. Help the children cut out the megaphone shape and glue or tape their megaphone together. Invite the children to practice sharing the messages by shouting, whispering, singing, and saying the words through their megaphones.

**LG** *Providing opportunities for children to share a message or story helps build their confidence. This also helps them learn that they are gifted members of your community.*

### 3. Be the Messenger

LG

Make copies of GN 3–4 and cut apart the cards. Make enough copies so each child has three or four cards with different messages. Read the messages to the children and remind them that these are the messages that Jeremiah shared with the people. Tell the children that they can be messengers too by sharing these messages with people in their church. Invite the children to decorate their cards. Go around the church with the children and help them tape cards to doors, walls, pews, and other places where people will see them. The children are the messengers!



Use “wonder” questions that do not force a child to remember facts. Wondering questions help a child think aloud. Answers are neither right nor wrong. They help teach children to speak from their hearts.

Using the same prayer for several weeks is helpful to children. Young children learn by repetition and build confidence with routine.



Ask parents and caregivers for their email addresses so that you can provide them with the link to [www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads](http://www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads), where they can download coloring pages, *Grace Sightings*, audio stories, and songs (see p. vii).

#### 4. Coloring Page



Hand out copies of **GN 5** and crayons. Invite the children to color the picture of Jeremiah. Engage the children in conversation as they color, using the following questions:

- ▼ I wonder, “How did Jeremiah feel when God called his name?”
- ▼ I wonder, “How did Jeremiah feel when he heard that God had chosen him?”
- ▼ I wonder, “What did Jeremiah tell the people about God?”

**T** *Transitions can be difficult. This may be a good time for some quick physical activities, such as reaching up to the sky and bending down to touch toes, clapping hands, and so forth.*

#### LOVING AND SERVING GOD



Call the children together, singing “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”—**SCM 17**. Tell the children that the word *exalt* means “praise.” Repeat words and phrases as it seems appropriate. Ask each child what message they want to tell others about God.

Call the children to snack time. Invite the children to repeat each line of the following prayer, clapping on the **BOLD** words.

We **thank** you, God.  
We **love** you, God,  
for **food** and **friends** and **family** too.  
We **thank** you, God.  
We **love** you, God.  
Amen!

As the children leave, bless them, inviting them to respond, “Here I am,” when they hear their name: “(Name) (**Here I am.**) God calls you by name. Go and tell God’s message to others.”



Touch your toes.

Sit cross-legged.

Give yourself a hug.

Laugh.

Pat a neighbor on the head.

Turn in a circle.

Reach your arms up high.

Smile.

Give a neighbor a “high five.”

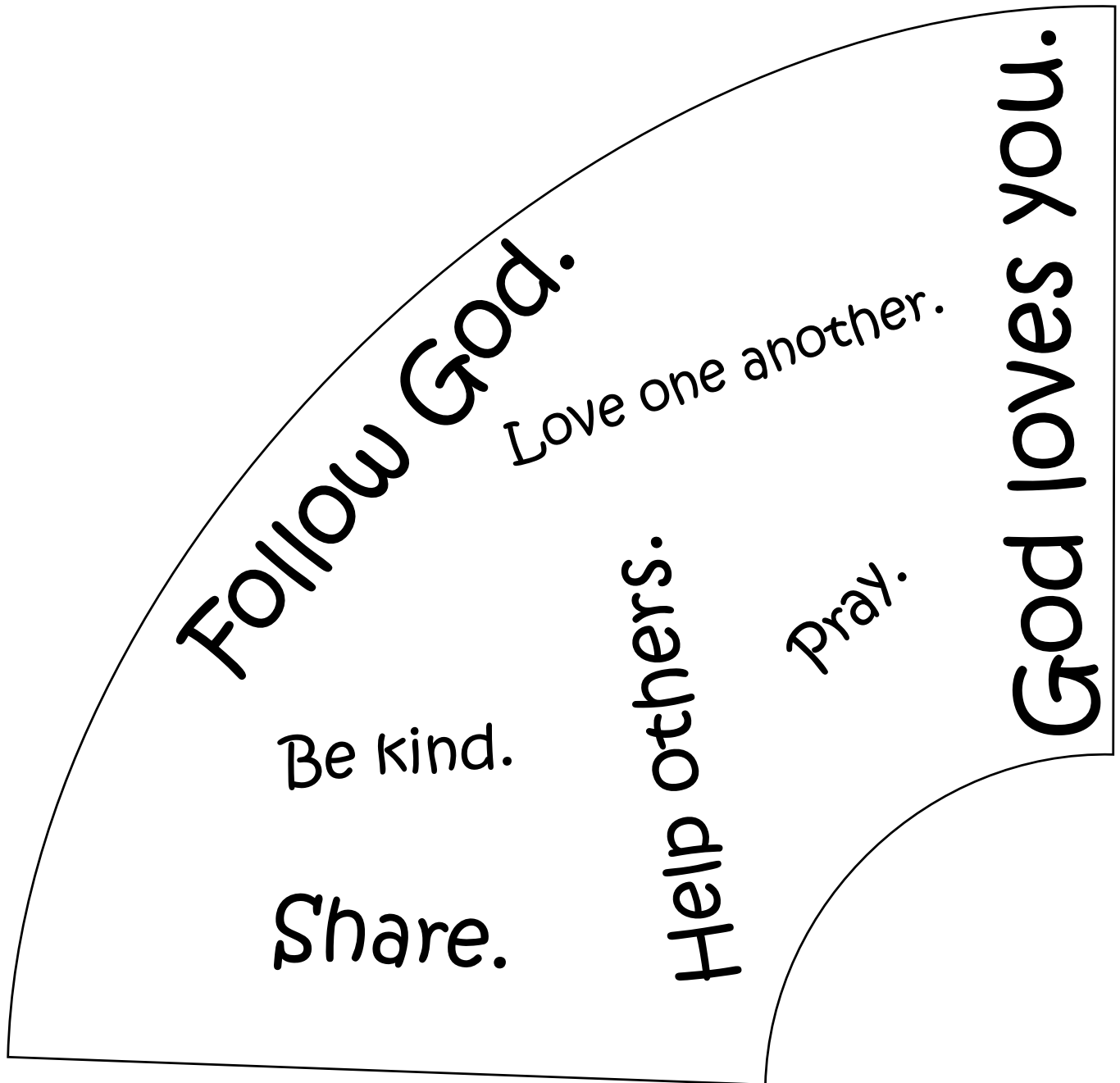
Wiggle your fingers.

Say your name.

Hop two times.









**God loves  
you.**

**Be kind.**

**Help  
others.**

**Share.**



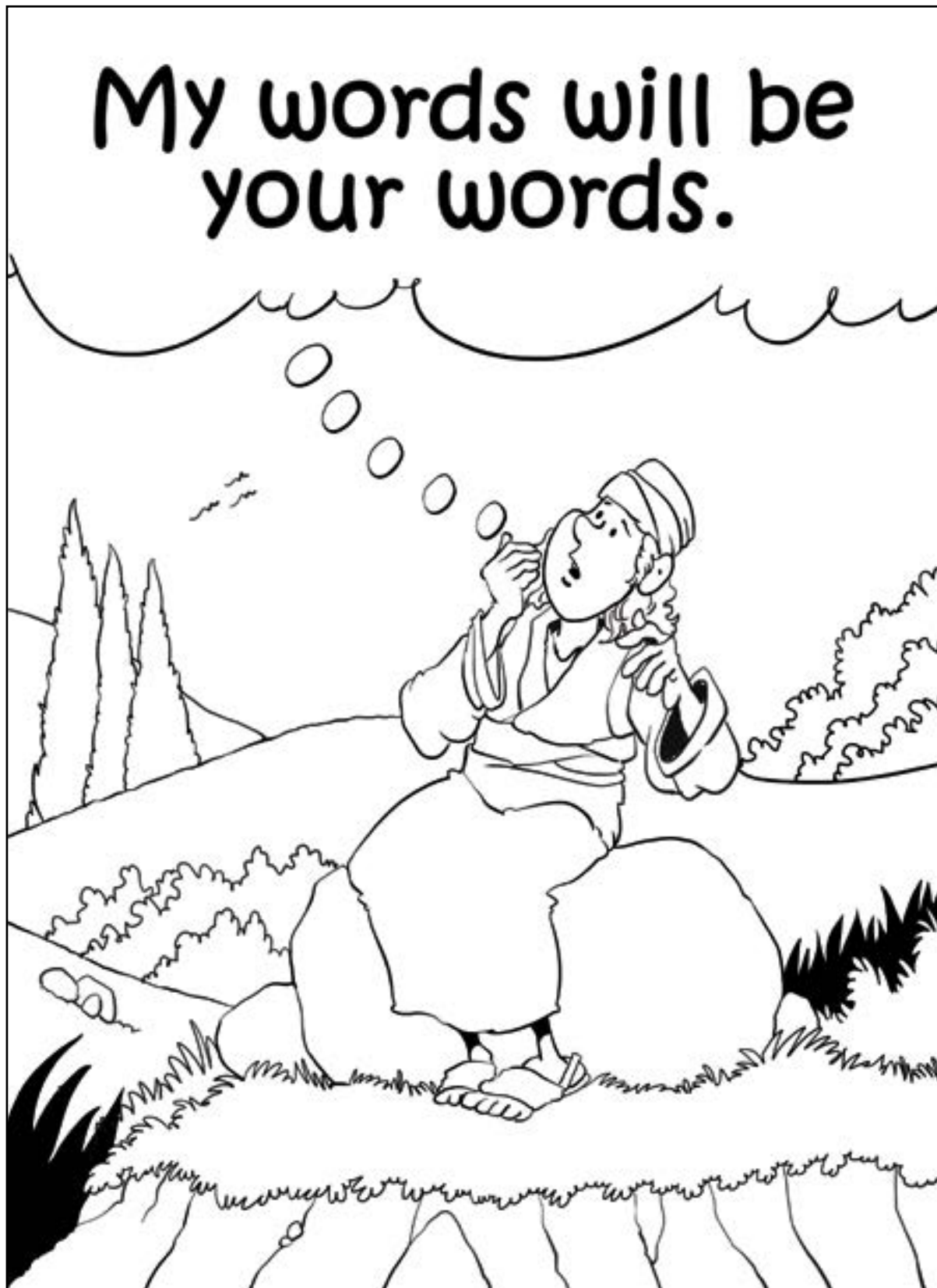
**Pray.**

**Follow  
God.**

**Love one  
another.**



## God Calls Jeremiah



God gave Jeremiah words to say to God's people.

