



God Calls Jeremiah

(based on Jeremiah 1:4-10)

Many years ago, there was a young man called Jeremiah. He lived in a town close to Jerusalem.

One day, Jeremiah heard God's voice. At first, Jeremiah thought he was dreaming. Why would God be talking to him? But it wasn't a dream. God was speaking to him.

"Jeremiah, I chose you to do a special job," announced God. "I chose you to do this job before you were born. You will be my prophet. You will take my message to all the people."

Jeremiah was astonished. He was so young. Who would listen to him?

"I can't do this," stammered Jeremiah. "I won't know what to say. I'm not a good speaker. I'm far too young to do this job."

"Don't say you are too young," answered God. "All you have to do is listen. I will tell you where to go, and you will go there. I will give you a message, and you will speak it. Don't be afraid. I will be with you."

Jeremiah felt God touch his lips.

"Did you feel me touch your lips?" said God. "I have put my words right in your mouth. The words I give you will dig up and then plant. They will tear down and then build up. I will tell you what to say. I am sending you out to the world to speak for me. My words will be your words."

Jeremiah felt God's words burning in his mouth. He knew that these words were important. He had to speak them to the people. He knew that some of God's words would be hard for people to hear but others would give hope. God told Jeremiah that things would be plucked up and destroyed, but a time would come when they will build and plant again.

So Jeremiah listened to God's call. He went out to be God's messenger. It was a huge job, but he knew God would be with him every step of the way.



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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Read *Hero of the Rails (Thomas & Friends)* by Rev. W. Awdry to learn about Thomas the Tank Engine's justice encounter.
- Help your children think of helpful things they're almost old enough to do. Share your vision that they will do many helpful things in their lifetime.



Responding to God's Grace

- Sing the refrain of "Here I Am, Lord," no. 69 in the *Glory to God* hymnal, or search the Internet for the words.
- Tell your children about a time when you were afraid to do something, but did it anyway. Share how you experienced that God was with you in the task.
- Invite your children to draw a picture of what they will do when God calls them.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Help your children collaborate on saying a table grace for one of today's meals. Remind your children that like Jeremiah, they are not too young to find words to speak with God.
- Ask your children if they remember anything from the children's time during worship or their Sunday school lesson. Celebrate with them whatever parts of the story they are able to retell.
- Pray this prayer:

God, thank you for being with us every step of the way. Amen.