

10 God Warns Judah

Key Passages

Jeremiah 2:5, 4:1, 4:6

Lesson Focus

We should worship God alone!

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Isaiah Coloring Sheet and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—God does not want us to worship idols, but wants us to worship Him alone!

Song—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Worship God Alone

Students will look at pictures of things they love that could become idols in their lives and will repeat, "We should worship God alone!"



Activity 2: God's Prophets Match-Up

Students will turn cards over and try to match the prophets studied in this version of the game Concentration.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse with bubbles!



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

	FOR THE TEACHER	
	☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.	☐ Student Take Home Sheets
	☐ Go Before the Throne.	
	COME ON IN	
	☐ Print one Isaiah Coloring Sheet from the Re-	☐ Isaiah Coloring Sheet for each student
	source DVD-ROM for each student.	☐ Play dough
	☐ Provide play dough if appropriate.	☐ Cookie cutters
CIRCLE TIME		
	☐ Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the	☐ Lesson Flip Chart
	back of this Teacher Guide.	☐ Bible
		☐ Stuffed animal for prayer time
1111	WORSHIP GOD ALONE!	
T)	☐ Print and cut apart the Things Children Love Pictures from the Resource DVD-ROM.	☐ Things Children Love Pictures
1111	GOD'S PROPHETS MATCH-UP	
7	☐ Print two sets of the six God's Prophets Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for each team.	☐ One set of 12 God's Prophets Cards for each team
0	MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY	
	☐ Bring in liquid bubbles.	☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
		☐ Liquid bubbles
	APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK	
Ä	☐ Prepare and bring snacks.	☐ Lesson Flip Chart
		☐ Snacks



SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

Jeremiah is often referred to as the "weeping prophet" because of the nature of his ministry, and the label fits. Jeremiah primarily prophesied in the Southern Kingdom of Judah during the final decades of that kingdom. The 10 tribes of the Northern Kingdom had been carried away, and the region was repopulated with Gentiles who intermarried with the Jews left behind. In the South, there was a series of good and bad kings.

Jeremiah was one of the prophets God sent to warn Judah, and his messages began during the reign of Josiah (Jeremiah 1:2, 3:6). Josiah was the sixteenth king of Judah and was one of the best kings. He was working to rid Judah of idol worship, turning them back to worshipping the one true God (2 Kings 22-23). Jeremiah was not the first prophet to be sent to Judah; Micah, Isaiah, Joel, Obadiah, and others preceded him, and he was a contemporary of Daniel, Ezekiel, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. God sent warnings to Judah through all of these men. Judah had periods of restoration, like the period when Isaiah was prophesying under King Hezekiah, but they were constantly backsliding just as Israel had done (Jeremiah 3:6-10). Jeremiah gave the final warnings of the coming destruction to Judah. He called for repentance and for the people to turn back to God. Because of their unfaithfulness to God, Judah was described as an adulterous wife, just like her sister Israel.

For their adulterous idolatry, God pronounced through Jeremiah that a lion from the north would come and lay siege to their city (Jeremiah 4:5–8). Judah was to be wiped out for their continual wickedness, despite the short periods of correct worship (2 Kings 23:26). Jeremiah foretold the coming destruction of Judah and Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians. This destruction would come in three phases. We'll get to that in the next lesson.

Because he was constantly and harshly warning the kings of coming judgment and calling them to repentance, Jeremiah was persecuted. During his ministry, Jeremiah faced death threats (Jeremiah 11:18–23, 26:8), was beaten and placed in stocks (20:2), had his writings burned (36:23–26), was thrown into a miry dungeon (38:6), was carried away captive in chains (40:1), and faced many other trials.

Frankly, it is all a little depressing. But the judgment he was proclaiming was deserved as Judah had persisted in following after false gods rather than the

God who had delivered them from Egypt and established them in the Promised Land. God judged the people of Judah, and He warned them that because they had forsaken Him and served foreign gods, they would be taken hostage and serve foreigners in another land (Jeremiah 5:19). As bleak as that future appeared, God also gave the people the message that they would not be completely wiped out, but a remnant would turn back to God and cry for relief (Jeremiah 5:18). God made it clear that the captivity described in Jeremiah chapter 5 would only last 70 years (Jeremiah 25:12).

In spite of all the warnings and proclamations of coming disaster, there was also a foreshadowing of eternal hope. Jeremiah spoke of the days when the Lord would raise to David a Branch of righteousness—a King who would reign and prosper. He would be called "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jeremiah 23:5–6). This was a foreshadowing of the coming Messiah.

We can live in this same hope as we face periods of conflict or brokenness in our lives, families, country, and world. Like Judah in Jeremiah's time, we live in a world cursed because of our sin, our idolatry, our unrepentant hearts. The hope Jeremiah spoke of is the same for us. Jesus Christ will come to restore all things one day. He will restore this broken creation. Jesus Christ offers a plan of redemption for sinners through His life, death, and Resurrection that can assure those who repent and believe a place with Him in eternity. This is our blessed Redeemer. This is our blessed hope.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

As we look at the opening passage of Jeremiah, we have a clear time frame for the ministry of Jeremiah. He was a young man when God first called him to be a prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:1–8), probably in his twenties, and possibly as old as 90 when he died. He began prophesying in 630 BC, the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah (Jeremiah 25:3), and the closing passages recount the release of Jehoiachin in 562 BC—indicating a span of 68 years of ministry. Unlike most of the prophets, Jeremiah was alive to actually see his prophecies of Jerusalem's destruction come to fulfillment, living through those horrid days when kings were captured and the city and Temple were burned and leveled. We will see as we continue our lessons that Jeremiah's role to Judah was not finished. His influence would continue into the 70 years of captivity that he had prophesied.

We have looked at some very specific prophecies from both Isaiah (last week) and Jeremiah. The statements they made were proclaiming in very particular detail what would happen in the future. Many people doubt that these statements are actually prophecies of the future. Rather, they say that an editor added those things back into the text after they had already happened. They doubt that the prophets really received messages from God and recorded what He told them. They doubt the absolute truthfulness and authority of the Bible.

As you face skeptics who want to attack the authority and authenticity of God's Word—whether inside or outside the church—remember, the Word of God speaks for itself. Show your friends where God's Word speaks specifically about the topic you are discussing. This way, those you are talking with will be forced to combat the words you show them in the Bible. Most skeptics are quick to deny man's opinions but will find it more difficult to deny the Bible and the very words it contains.

We can cling to the truth proclaimed in Scripture. There we find the knowledge of who God is, what He has done for us in Christ, and how He works in us through the Holy Spirit. As we study God's Word, we trust that the God of the universe is speaking and that we have the privilege of receiving His words. We must heed the warnings, obey the commands, and trust in

the promises, knowing that we are submitting to the Creator of the universe who has graciously saved us from our sinful selves and adopted us into His family.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Almighty Lord, you alone deserve all my worship. I was grieved when I read your Word in Jeremiah and saw how you pleaded with your people to return to you. You longed for them to remember you. Why were they so cold to you after all you had done for them? Didn't their fathers and grandfathers teach them about you? Lord, that could be me. Sometimes I go my own way, and I forget about you. I'm not always faithful to tell the next generation about you. Thank you for opening my eyes to the importance of remembering who you are and all you've done throughout history and in my life. Thank you for this chance to tell the next generation all about you. Help me to be faithful to teach the Word. Quicken the hearts of the children to believe.

As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Isaiah Coloring Sheet.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Confession is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of confession—and tell God we are sorry for sinning.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, you know when I sin. Please forgive me for . . . (insert personal prayer).

- Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.
- ➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of confession.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- **Who made you?** God.
- What else did God make? All things.
- Why did God make you and all things? For His own glory.
- **Can you see God?** No, I cannot see God, but He can always see me.
- **Where is God?** God is everywhere.

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

Bible Pass Around

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. When finished with Bible Pass Around you may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it.

The Bible is a very special book. In it we learn about who God is and what He wants us to do. We have the Bible, but did you know that at one time there was no Bible to read? How did the people know anything about God? Today we can read God's Word for ourselves. Before the Bible was written, God used prophets to speak to His people.

Refer to the Flip Chart as you quickly review. Refer to Lesson 2 Flip Chart. He used the prophet Amos to warn the people to obey God, or God would punish them. God is just. He must punish sin. Refer to Lesson 3 Flip Chart. Then there

➤ Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

➤ When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

was Hosea. God used Hosea and his love for his wife to show just how much God loves His people. Refer to Lesson 5 Flip Chart. And then there was the prophet Nahum. He went to the city of Nineveh and warned the people to turn back to God, or God would punish them! Because God loved His people, He always gave them warnings and told them to stop sinning. Refer to Lesson 7 Flip Chart. Do you remember Isaiah? He was the prophet who spoke to King Hezekiah. He told the king that God would answer his prayer and save the people from their enemy! Refer to Lesson 9 Flip Chart. He also told us that Jesus would come and save His people from their sins! Refer to Lesson 8 Flip Chart. Then there was Micah. Micah knew where Jesus would be born and what He would do for sinners 700 years before Jesus's birth!

The prophets warned the people of punishment and told them of things to come. Well, guess what! Today we will learn about ANOTHER prophet of God! His name was Jeremiah. Refer to the Flip Chart. There is a book in the Bible called Jeremiah. Let's open the Bible to the book of Jeremiah to see what God's Word has for us today! Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Here it is in my Bible. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.

Refer to Flip Chart. Jeremiah had a message from God. He came to give the people another warning. The people were not worshipping God alone! We should worship God alone! Jeremiah told the people to turn away from their idols and turn back to God. He knew that if they did not turn back to God, God would punish them. Listen to what Jeremiah told the people! Read Jeremiah 2:5 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.

- Who was speaking through Jeremiah? The Lord.
- Where had the people gone? Far from the Lord.
- What were the people following? Idols.

The people had turned away from God. They were following idols. Idols are false gods. God wants us to obey Him and worship Him alone. God was getting angry, and He sent Jeremiah to tell the people that. Jeremiah did what God told him. He told the people what God wanted them to do. Listen to what else God said through the prophet Jeremiah. Read Jeremiah 4:1.

- What did God want the people to do? Return to Him.

 God made the people a promise that if they would stop worshipping idols, if they would return to Him, they would not be moved!
- What do you think that means? Allow discussion.

 Let's play a little game. I want to see if some of these things I have here can be moved.
- Stand up out of your chair. **Can this chair be moved?** Yes. Allow a child to move the chair.

Jeremiah 2:5

Jeremiah 4:1

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know that they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them!

- Lay your Bible on the floor. Can this Bible be moved? Yes. Allow a child to move the Bible.
- Refer to the Flip Chart. Can this Flip Chart be moved? Yes. Allow a child to move the Flip Chart.
- Now, come over here to the wall (or the teacher's desk or something that can't be moved). Can this wall be moved? No!

In fact we could ALL try to move this wall, and we can't budge it! Allow the children to push on the wall.

God said that if the people would stop worshipping idols, then they would not be moved, just like this wall! God was promising the people that they would be strong and safe if they followed God. No one would be able to conquer them. But if they worshipped other gods, they would be weak, and God would punish them for their sin.

I want to read this to you. Listen carefully and tell me what God was going to do. Read Jeremiah 4:6b emphasizing "destruction."

What would God bring to the people who did not worship Him alone?

Destruction!

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart. Destruction means something was going to happen that would damage and destroy them and their town. Jeremiah had to tell the people that God was going to punish their sin by bringing another nation to destroy them! God had warned the people. But He was not going to give them any more warnings!

God's people had sinned by worshipping idols for far too long. God was angry with them. He gave them many chances to turn back to Him. He sent prophets to warn the people of what would happen if they did not turn their hearts back to God. But the people of Judah would not listen to God's prophets. They just kept sinning! God is just, and He must punish sin. He wants us to worship Him alone! When we do not love God with all of our heart and with all of our mind and with all of our strength, then we are worshipping something else. And that is sin.

God wants us to stop worshipping the idols in our lives and worship Him alone.

What is an idol? Allow discussion.

Whatever we make more important than God is an idol. God demands that we worship and obey Him alone! That means we are to love God more than our friends or our favorite toy! We are to love God more than anything! He is the only God worthy of our praise and worship. We should worship God alone!

Jeremiah 4:6b

SONG

God used the prophet Jeremiah to give His people another warning. Turn away from idols and worship God alone! God wants us to worship Him alone! Here is a new song I want to teach you. Sing "Jeremiah's Song."

Great! We are to worship and praise God alone. When we make anything else more important than God, we are worshipping idols. This is sin! God wants us to worship Him alone! Now we'll sing our song that reminds us to worship God alone. Sing "God Wants Me to Worship Him!"

Good job! Now we will finish this time singing our Memory Verse Song. Sing the Memory Verse Song while marching around the room!

Using the Flip Chart Song Page and Memory Verse Page, teach the songs to the students. Then sing the songs together several times as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

Worship God Alone

MATERIALS

- ☐ Things Children Love Pictures
- ☐ Bible

INSTRUCTIONS

Show the children the Things Children Love Pictures. Follow the script below as you show each picture. Have the children repeat the answers after each picture. They can answer in different ways—shout, whisper, girls, boys, etc.

I'm going to show you some pictures. I want you to tell me what they are and answer four very special questions. Ready? Hold up pictures one at a time.

- **What is this?** A swing set!
- Should we worship our swing set? No!
- Hold up Bible. Who should we worship? We should worship God alone!
- And where do we learn about God? Hold up Bible, have children shout "In the Bible!"
- What is this? A dog!

- Should we worship our pets? No!
- Hold up Bible. Who should we worship? We should worship God alone!
- And where can we learn about God? Hold up Bible, have children shout "In the Bible!" Continue this same pattern with all 12 of the pictures.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

show the Things Children Love Pictures again. You know all of these wonderful things are gifts from God. God wants us to enjoy them. God gives us everything we have! He is our Creator and the only true God. That is why we should worship and pray to Him alone. We should never love what we have—what God gives us—more than we love God. That is not right! God alone is to be worshipped. The people in Jeremiah's day had turned away from God. They did not love Him as they should, and God used Jeremiah to tell them that He would punish them for their sin.



MATERIALS

- ☐ One set of 12 God's Prophets Cards for each team (2 each of 6 prophets)
- ☐ Prophet Review Sheet for your use

INSTRUCTIONS

Depending on the size of your class, you can divide the students into teams. You may just want to play the game at each table, if appropriate. Put the cards (2 sets of 6 cards) face down on the table. Children will try to match the prophets by turning two cards over at a time. Read the names and text from each card as they turn them over

and/or make matches. Use the Prophet Review Sheet to give a bit more information about each prophet as you play the game.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Long ago, God used prophets to speak for Him. This was before God gave us the Bible. God used the prophets to give good news, bad news, to warn the people, to teach them, and to tell them about Jesus who would come as the Savior.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.

MATERIALS

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- ☐ One bottle of bubble liquid

INSTRUCTIONS

Have students sit down on the floor in a circle—they will need space to move around. Using the Flip Chart, students will recite the memory verse together. Each time the verse is completed, the teacher will blow bubbles over the area where the students are seated on the floor. Allow students to try and catch the bubbles in some safe, appropriate

way. One child at a time may be the best way to do it. Repeat as time allows.

Come here and sit down on the floor in a circle. We've looked at the words to our memory verse. Now it's time to practice it. So we're going to say it over and over. And each time we say the verse, I'm going to blow some bubbles at you to see if you can catch them. Are you ready?

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Our memory verse is very good news and very bad news at the same time. The very bad news is that we are like sheep, and we want to stray away from God. We turn to our own ways and don't want to listen to Him. The very good news is that God sent Jesus, and Jesus took our sins (iniquities) on Himself on the Cross so we could be forgiven for all the straying away from God we do!



WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart and any other props you've used today.

God was very patient with His people as they continued to worship idols instead of Him. He sent many prophets to give the people warnings and tell them to turn their hearts back to God. The people of Judah would not listen to God's prophets. God was getting angry because of their sins. He is jealous for His glory! God wants us to worship Him alone! Finally, God sent the prophet Jeremiah to give the people another warning. Turn back to God, or He will destroy you! Sadly, the people kept worshipping their idols, so God sent a strong army to destroy His people because of their sins. When we make anything more important than God, we are worshipping idols, just like the people of Judah. God wants us to turn from idols to worship Him.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

When we make anything more important than God, we are worshipping idols, just like the people of Judah did. God wants us to turn from our idols to worship Him. There are many things in this world that can take our eyes off of God and the good things He has for us. God loves His children very much. That is why He gave His people warnings. He is very patient! But one day, God will have to punish everyone who does not worship Him alone. God is also rich in mercy and love! That is why He gave us His Son Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for our sins. Instead of punishing us, God punished His Son in our place! Because Jesus died for our sins, we can live forever with God!

Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His Word and His prophets who spoke for Him.
- Praise God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sins.
- Pray that God will give us hearts to worship Him alone.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

JEREMIAH'S SONG

(To the tune of "Where Is Thumbkin?")

Sing this song while playing musical instruments.

Jer-e-mi-ah, Jer-e-mi-ah,

(Where is thumbkin? Where is thumbkin?)

God used him. God used him.

(Here I am. Here I am.)

"Go and warn the people,"

(How are you this morning?)

"Go and warn the people,"

(Very well, I thank you.)

Worship God, God alone!

(Run away, run away.)

ISAIAH 53:6

(To the tune of "The Itsy Bitsy Spider")

All we like sheep have go-one a-astray;

(The itsy bitsy spider went up the water spout.)

We have tur-urned, every one, to hi-is o-own

way;

(Down came the rain and washed the spider out.)

And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us

all.

(Out came the sun and dried up all the rain.)

Isaiah 53 and ver-er-erse 6.

(So the itsy bitsy spider went up the spout again.)

GOD WANTS ME TO WORSHIP HIM!

(To the tune of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes")

Lift up your hands then lower them when singing the words "worship Him."

God wants me to worship Him,

(This is the way we wash our clothes,)

Worship Him,

(Wash our clothes,)

Worship Him.

(Wash our clothes,)

God wants me to worship Him,

(This is the way we wash our clothes,)

Worship Him alone!

(Early Monday morning.)

Raise your hands and sway them from side to side when singing the words "praise His name"

God wants me to praise His name,

Praise His name.

Praise His name.

God wants me to praise His name,

Praise His name alone!

Think of fun ways to sing. For example: Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.