

# Jeremiah's Scroll

Jeremiah 36:1-32

## **MEMORY VERSE**

JEREMIAH 36:3

“It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I propose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

A Bible.

Two blank stickers for each child and paper cards with numbers 1-10 written on them.

Fruit roll ups (large squares or circles will work best).

As many sheets of parchment paper (8 1/2 x 11 inches OK) as the number of children in your class, black markers, ribbon, 1/2“ diameter doweling cut into 14” lengths (two for each child) and craft scissors that will cut special jagged edges.

## **ATTENTION GETTER!**

### **God’s Preserves His Word!**

Ask children to stand in a large circle, holding their hands behind their backs. Choose someone to stand in the center of the circle. Give one of the persons in the circle the Bible. The object is for the chosen child to pass the Bible to the child next to them and that child onto the next, etc., all behind their backs. After 30 seconds, the child in the middle will have to guess which child is holding the Bible. Make sure to let the children in the circle that they all can pretend to be receiving the Bible in order to try to trick the child in the middle.

The children should continue passing the Bible for 30 seconds. Say, “stop” and allow the child in the middle to guess who has the Bible. If the guess is correct, the person holding the Bible becomes the next center person. If the guess is incorrect, have the kids continue passing the Bible. Play a few rounds to give other children opportunity to play.

Just like it was hard for the person in the middle of the circle to find the Bible, the enemies of God will never be able to completely rid the world of God’s Word. God has been faithful through the years to preserve His Word. Even in countries whose governments have made ownership of a Bible illegal, such as China, God will work whatever miracles are necessary to bring His Word to those who are seeking Him. **God’s Word cannot be destroyed.**

## **LESSON TIME!**

God’s Word is of great value to those who will hear and heed it! It guides us, cleanses us from sin, protects us, changes us, and much more. God gave us His Word to bless us and allow us to experience the great things He intends for those who submit themselves to Him. While there is great blessing in store for those who hear and obey God’s Word, there are sad consequences for those who reject His Word.

Through the prophets, God warned His people not to worship idols, not to live as the unbelievers do; He gently and earnestly admonished them to turn their heart fully back to Him. Yet sadly, they would not hear and obey. Now, Jeremiah the prophet, had the difficult task of attempting to warn a stubborn people. How foolish it would be for the people to continue to ignore God’s loving attempts to warn them and reach them through His Word. For ultimately, God’s Word will stand—judgment will come to those who reject Him! **God’s Word cannot be destroyed.**

### JEREMIAH 36:1-3

Now it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, that this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:

"Take a scroll of a book and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel, against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah even to this day.

"It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I purpose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."

At this time, King Jehoiakim ruled over Judah. Though he was the son of King Josiah, an upright and godly king, Jehoiakim was not obedient to God at all, nor did he respect God's prophets. So, for Jeremiah to confront this king was indeed dangerous. Sometimes, evil kings put God's prophets in prison or, even worse, killed them. Even when things looked scary for Jeremiah, he still did what God asked him to do.

God wanted Jeremiah to write down His words. God was not only thinking of His people then, but also of His people now! In the Old Testament scriptures recorded by Jeremiah, we have a record of God's dealings with His people, His patience and yearning for them, and the frailty of man as he chooses to forsake God and suffer the consequences of his foolish choices. In 1 Corinthians 10:11, the Bible says that the things that happened were recorded for us for our "admonition" (advice for or against doing something), to be an example to us, for our "admonition." God desires that we learn from the mistakes of others so we will not repeat them. He longs to bless our lives and see us become all He intended.

God's heart is reflected in what he shares with Jeremiah. "It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I purpose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin." God is constantly giving to man the opportunity to turn from his sins. God is more desirous to forgive us of our sins than we are to be forgiven. He stands ready to forgive and desirous to bestow His favor and blessing upon any person or nation that will turn to Him.

### JEREMIAH 36:4-8

Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the instruction of Jeremiah, all the words of the LORD which He had spoken to him.

And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, "I am confined, I cannot go into the house of the LORD.

"You go, therefore, and read from the scroll which you have written at my instruction, the words of the LORD, in the hearing of the people in the LORD's house on the day of fasting. And you shall also read them in the hearing of all Judah who come from their cities.

"It may be that they will present their supplication before the LORD, and everyone will turn from his evil way. For great is the anger and the fury that the LORD has pronounced against this people."

And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading from the book the words of the LORD in the LORD's house.

At this particular time of Jeremiah's preaching, he was "confined." Perhaps, this meant he had been imprisoned or banned from entering the temple because he spoke out against the people's wicked ways. Although the people were rebellious against the Word of God and persecution was fairly sure, Jeremiah was bold and obedient to the Lord. May we be bold and obedient despite any opposition to sharing the Good News!

Since Jeremiah was confined, he commanded his servant, Baruch, to write the words on the scroll and read it to the people. Jeremiah and Baruch are a good example of faith and trust. Jeremiah did not allow confinement in the physical sense to stop him from getting God's Word out. Baruch did not allow fear of imprisonment to keep him from speaking God's truth. How is our faith and trust doing? How important is it to us that the Word of God be shared? **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

### JEREMIAH 36:9-10

Now it came to pass in the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, that they proclaimed a fast before the LORD to all the people in Jerusalem, and to all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem.

Then Baruch read from the book the words of Jeremiah in the house of the LORD, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the scribe, in the upper court at the entry of the New Gate of the Lord's house, in the hearing of all the people.

Baruch once again read the scroll in the Lord's house in the hearing of all the people. He wanted to make sure that God's message got out. Sometimes, we need to be told more than once before we obey something! God often sends multiple invitations to unbelievers to respond to the Good News. Perhaps, someone who you shared the Good News with did not respond. Don't give up!

Baruch continued on even though it seemed that no one was turning from his or her ways; but this time when he read God's Word, the princes, high priests, and scribes were present. They did not want to hear what God had to say, because they would be forced to change their evil ways. How sad that even the priests and scribes, those who were supposed to be serving the Lord, refused to listen to God's Word.

The people of Judah were fooling themselves into believing they were safe and free from God's wrath because they had a form of religion and God's temple was in their land. But "religion" cannot save; they needed to restore their broken fellowship with God. Baruch faithfully continued to read the scroll, even to the leaders who didn't want to hear and had power to put Baruch in prison. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

**JEREMIAH 36:17-19**

**And they asked Baruch, saying, "Tell us now, how did you write all these words; at his instruction?"**

**So Baruch answered them, "He proclaimed with his mouth all these words to me, and I wrote them with ink in the book."**

**Then the princes said to Baruch, "Go and hide, you and Jeremiah; and let no one know where you are."**

By this time word was traveling fast that Baruch and Jeremiah were preaching about the need for repentance and the consequence of judgment if the people did not repent. The princes that believed God's Word feared for Baruch and Jeremiah's lives, so they told them to hide. God will protect us when we follow His instructions. And, nothing can stop God's Word. Next, the king would hear God's Word. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

## Hiding the Souls (Soles)

The object of this game is to find Jeremiah and Baruch. You will need two stickers for each child, paper cards with numbers 1 – 10 written on them. On two of the stickers write a “J” and on two more write a “B” on them.

Divide the class into two teams and have them stand on opposite sides of the classroom. Place a sticker on the bottom of each shoe of each child. For each team place a “J” sticker on one person’s shoe and a “B” sticker on another person’s shoe. Give everyone a card with a number to hold up (adjust the numbers based on class size). Have everyone face each other. Choose one of the teams to begin. The child holding card one goes first. They can choose any number on the opposite team. For example they would say, “Number 3, left foot.” Then the person holding card three should show the bottom of their left foot. It will either be a blank sticker, a “J” sticker, or a “B” sticker.

Now, the child holding card one from the opposite team takes a turn and does the same thing. Memory is the key in this game. Once one of the letters “J” or “B” are revealed the play doesn’t stop there. The second letter must be revealed. When a child has revealed the second letter they can say, “I found Jeremiah and Baruch.” They must be able to reveal that letter and remember where the first letter is to win. If they can say where both letters are they win. If they don’t, play will resume until one team can reveal both letters.

### JEREMIAH 36:21-24

So the king sent Jehudi to bring the scroll, and he took it from Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the hearing of the king and in the hearing of all the princes who stood beside the king.



Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him.

And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.

Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments, the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words.

How important it is that the leader of a people be one that will lead the righteousness and, thus, protect them from harm and cause them to prosper. But, when King Jehoiakim heard these words, he carelessly refused them. He was bitter and angry and mocked God by destroying the sacred scroll in the fire. He showed no sign of repentance.

The Gospel is often met with a hostile reaction. In order to receive the Good News of God's forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ, people must first acknowledge their sinfulness and need of a savior. Some are blinded by the darkness; bound in sin, they refuse to give up. Others are too proud to admit they are sinners in need of God's salvation. If you pass out tracts, you may have the experience of someone tearing it up and throwing it away the moment they receive it. Though we can expect rejection by many (2 Timothy 3:12), we are commissioned, as was Jeremiah, to spread the Good News. May we be faithful to our calling!

### JEREMIAH 36:26-28

And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son, Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet, but the LORD hid them.

Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words which Baruch had written at the instruction of Jeremiah, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying:

"Take yet another scroll, and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned.

Even the king of Israel was unable to destroy the Word of God. He burned the copy that he had, but God provided another. Throughout history the story remains the same. Through hostility and severe persecution, God's Word has remained.

How foolish the king was to think that he could refuse to obey God's Word and not suffer consequences as a result. Once a person has heard God's truth, he is responsible to submit his life to it. Have you responded to the truth of God's Word?

God's answer to the king's destruction of His Word was simply to have Jeremiah and Baruch to write down another copy. God's Word will always be there no matter what. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

### JEREMIAH 36:29-31

"And you shall say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, 'Thus says the LORD: "You have burned this scroll, saying, 'Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and cause man and beast to cease from here?'"

'Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: "He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night.

"I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed." ' "

God says what He means and means what He says. The king mistakenly thought he could destroy God's Word by destroying the scroll. While God's Word remained unharmed, the kingdom of the unrepentant king and the king himself were destroyed. Sin has bitter consequences. The story did not have to end that way. God earnestly sought repentance that he might bestow upon His people forgiveness and blessing. If only the king had turned to God, things would have been so much different for him and for the nation he led. Let's learn from his example.

God's Word, the Bible, is incredibly indestructible. The Bible says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Mark 13:31). And, how we are benefited as we hear and heed God's instructions through His Word! God's Word guides us—It is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105). God's Word cleanses and protects us from sin (Psalm 119:9,11). His Word establishes us in righteousness and brings forth good fruit in our lives (Psalm 1, Isaiah 55:10,11). It is powerful and effective in changing our lives. In Hebrews 4:12 we read, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." In summary, we who read and plant God's Word in our hearts have found priceless treasure (Psalm 119:14,127,162).

Though God used 40 different writers, who lived at different times in the history of Israel, God's Word has proven to be inerrant and consistent. In 2 Timothy 3:16 we read, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." God's Word is indeed supernatural—it is inspired by God. The validity of the Bible is proven; over 400 Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah were fulfilled by Jesus Christ. **God's Word cannot be destroyed.**

How tragic it was that the people of Israel ignored God's Word to their own hurt! Since, we hold a treasure—the Word of God—let us not only read it, but allow His Word to dwell richly in us and accomplish God's good intentions in our lives.

## **Fruit Roll Scrolls**

Fruit roll ups will make a fun snack. Get the kind that is either large squares or circles. The children can roll them up like scrolls and eat them.

## **Scrolls of God's Word**

In the days of Jeremiah and Baruch, the people wrote God's Word down on parchments or scrolls. You will need as many sheets of parchment paper (8 1/2 x 11 inches are okay) as the number of children in your class, black markers, ribbon, 1/2" diameter doweling cut into 14" lengths (two for each child) and scissors that will cut special jagged edges.

Give one sheet of parchment paper, the thicker the better, to each child. Have them write out today's memory verse or a similar one on the same theme. (Hebrews 4:12 is a good verse concerning God's Word.) For added fun, look up what Hebrew alphabet characters look like and maybe have the kids draw a few of those on their parchment. Have the children decorate their parchments with markers and other craft supplies.

Next, take the parchment and roll inward from both ends. Glue a section of 1/4" doweling to each end of the paper. Roll up the scroll and tie a small piece of ribbon around it.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God preserving His Word and giving it to us, today, so that we can learn about Him and eternal life. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.