



SUNDAY

MORNING SERVICE

8:30 10:30	TEAM HUDDLE: Announcements, prayer, and service overview in the Explorers Room.
8:45 10:45	CHECK-IN: Welcome kids by name and invite them to join you at an activity.
9:05 11:05	WELCOME & WORSHIP: Join the kids as you sing, dance, and model a heart of worship.
9:15 11:15	DISMISS PRETEENS & BIBLE LESSON: Sit with the kids, engage with them during the lesson, and help them pay attention.
9:35 11:35	KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADE: Craft 2ND GRADE & 3RD GRADE: Small Groups
9:50 11:50	KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADE: Small Groups 2ND GRADE & 3RD GRADE: Craft
9:05 11:05	CHECK-OUT: Clean up the station activities and bring the Check-In activities back out.

SMALL GROUPS

October 25

K-3RD



Jeremiah and the Fall of Judah Jeremiah 27-28, 37-39; 2 Kings 25; Lamentations 1

Key Verse: “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

Big Idea: God is close to people with broken hearts, so we can find comfort in Him when we’re sad.

CRUSHED WITH SADNESS

Have the kids sit in a circle around the rug.

2nd Grade: YELLOW

3rd Grade: PINK

Kindergarten: YELLOW

1st Grade: PINK

- Introduce yourself and have kids share their names.
- The purpose of this time is to connect with the kids. Try to get to know each of them, and let them share. Don’t rush through the questions, encourage them to listen to each other as they share.

(Hold up a soda can and show the kids that it’s empty.) We’re kind of like this can. When really sad things happen to us, we can feel kind of empty inside — like all of our joy is gone. (Place the empty can on the floor.) My foot is kind of like the sad things that happen to us.

(Place your foot on top of the can.) The sadness sits heavy on us and keeps us feeling kind of down. And when the sad things just keep on happening, it can feel

so heavy that it breaks our heart and crushes our spirit. (Put your full weight on the can and crush it.) But the Bible says that it doesn't have to be like that. Let's take a look. Have the kids read Psalm 34:18. When we feel overwhelmed by sadness, God is close to us.

(Hold up a clear glass jar with no lid.) This jar is kind of like God. The jar is clear which reminds us that God is invisible. We can't see Him, but He's always there. The jar is also strong (squeeze the jar firmly) which reminds us of God's strength and power.

(Place another empty soda can on the floor. Place the jar upside down over the top of the can and place your foot on top of the jar.) When we feel like sadness is pressing down on us, God is close. (Put your full weight on top of the jar. Consider holding onto something for balance.) And when the sad things just keep on happening, God saves us from being crushed. (Step down from jar.)

When Jeremiah felt sad, God was right there with Him. He kept Jeremiah from being crushed by the sadness and He gave Jeremiah hope that the sadness would one day pass. And do you know what? God does the same for us. It's okay to feel sad, just know that you are not alone and that God will save you from being crushed by the sadness.

Know that you can pray to God and ask Him to help you find your joy again. And best of all, know that for those of us who follow Jesus, God has promised that one day we will live with Him forever in Heaven where there are no tears and no more sadness.

Questions:

- **Why do you think Jeremiah was so sad?**
- **What do you think God does for you when you're sad? How do you know He's close?**
- **What can you do to help someone when they're feeling sad?**
- **In the Bible, it says that even Jesus wept. How can knowing this help you the next time you're sad?**
- **Sometimes God uses other people to help heal a heart. What can you do to help someone when they're feeling sad?**

Pray: One of the best things to do when you're sad is to pray. Open your group in prayer and then allow kids to tell God about what's making them sad and ask Him to be close to them.

CRAFT

October 25

K-3RD



Jeremiah and the Fall of Judah Jeremiah 27-28, 37-39; 2 Kings 25; Lamentations 1

Key Verse: “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

Big Idea: God is close to people with broken hearts, so we can find comfort in Him when we’re sad.

JEREMIAH AND THE FALL OF JUDAH COMIC

Have the kids sit in the chairs around the tables.

Kindergarten: BLUE

1st Grade: GREEN

2nd Grade: GREEN

3rd Grade: BLUE

- Introduce yourself and have kids share their names.

Give each kid some markers and a copy of the “Comic Sheet: Jeremiah and the Fall of Judah.” Read the story and encourage the kids to draw the missing pictures.

(Tell kids to draw a king in panel #1.) **The nation of Israel was conquered by their enemy the Babylonians. The king of Judah has agreed to remain loyal to evil Babylon and pay them money in exchange for peace. But the King of Judah is getting tired of paying and now he’s talking with other nations about going to war with the powerful Babylonians.**

God sends a prophet named Jeremiah to confront the King of Judah. When Jeremiah shows up, he’s wearing a large yoke on his neck. A yoke is a wooden beam that

farmers put on the necks of their oxen to control the powerful animals. Jeremiah tells the King, “God has given you over to Babylon because of your wickedness. Babylon has put its yoke of power on your neck and now they control you like a wild beast. If you accept the yoke and serve Babylon, you will live. If you don’t serve Babylon, you will die. Any prophet who tells you differently is a liar.” (Tell kids to draw a broken yoke on the floor in panel #2.)

Unfortunately, no one will listen to Jeremiah. The King of Judah doesn’t want to believe Jeremiah’s prophecy, so he continues to conspire with Egypt to wage war with the Babylonians. When the king of Babylon hears about the conspiracy, he’s quick to attack Jerusalem, just like Jeremiah had prophesied. The only things that keep the Babylonian army from a swift victory are the giant walls surrounding Jerusalem. (Tell kids to draw Jeremiah sitting in the mud in panel #3.)

One day, after two and a half years of fighting, the great wall of Jerusalem comes crashing down and the Babylonian soldiers rush in. The fighting men of Judah are no match for the fierce Babylonian army. Soon the city is set on fire and the remaining wall is broken down.

(Tell kids to draw fire on the city and broken down walls in panel #4.) **The enemy soldiers steal all of the gold, silver, and valuables from the Temple and the palace buildings. Worst of all, the people of Judah are made prisoners and forced to leave their home. Everyone but the poorest people are taken to Babylon where they become servants to the powerful enemy nation.**