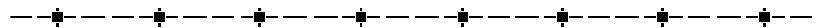


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Lamentations

Last week we learned that the people of Judah were captive because they were being punished for their sin. God sent Jeremiah to encourage them. God promised to bring them back to the land. God loved Judah even though they had sinned against Him. He promised to make a new covenant with them.

Lamentations 3

Read the Bible

READ: Lamentations 3:17-32 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse

But God loves us deeply.
He is full of mercy.
(Ephesians 2:4 NIV)

Begin with Prayer

In Lamentations 3 Jeremiah talked about how God was not happy with His people. God punished them and they suffered. Jeremiah said, "I have lost all hope of ever having any peace. I've forgotten what good times are like." Jeremiah talked about how very sad he was. He said that he didn't remember what a good life was like. He felt hopeless. (Lamentation 3:17-20 NIV)

The situation that Judah was in was very difficult. They were in a strange land. They were captive. They could not leave. Someone else told them what to do. It was very hard. But then Jeremiah remembered that it is a good thing to hope in God. He said, "...I remember. And it gives me hope." (Lamentation 3:21 NIV)

Jeremiah knew that God loved them. He knew that God is faithful. He knew that His mercy is great. "His loving concern never fails. His great love is new every morning." (Lamentations 3:17-23 NIV)

Jeremiah understood that the only thing he needed was God. He believed that those who hope in God experienced the goodness of God. He said, "The Lord is everything I will ever need. So I will put my hope in him." God wants us to trust Him no matter what is happening. He wants us to wait, to hope, to believe that He will save us. (Lamentations 3:24-26 NIV)

Next Jeremiah said that it was good to go through the hard times when a man was young. It is important to let God do what He has planned. When a young man submits no matter how difficult his situation, he is a better man. (Lamentation 3:27 NIV)

Goals

1. Understand that God punished Judah.
2. Recognize that they were in a strange land.
3. Learn that Jeremiah knew he could hope in God.
4. Understand that God's mercy is great and His love never fails.

Lamentations – Bible Facts

1. Jeremiah felt hopeless.
2. Judah was captive in a strange land.
3. God's love never fails.
4. Jeremiah decided to put his hope in God.

Jeremiah suggested that the best thing to do is go and be alone, be silent, pray, and wait. He is not saying run away from trouble, but rather run to God. God is where our hope can be found. God is faithful and we can depend on God's love. (Lamentation 3:28-32)

Jeremiah added that God, "doesn't want to bring pain or suffering to people." He doesn't delight in making life hard, difficult, and painful for His children. He is a God of love. (1 John 4:8) He is a God of mercy. (Ephesians 2:4)

God knows when we are mistreated or when we treat others badly. He knows it and is aware. That is not how God wants us to behave. (Lamentations 3:34-38; Exodus 20:12-20; Ephesians 4:32)

Then Jeremiah said, "Let's lift up our hands to God in heaven. Let's pray to him with all our hearts." (Lamentations 3:42 NIV) Later Jeremiah said that he called out to God and God heard his cry and answered. Jeremiah said that God was on his side and saved his life. (Lamentation 3:55-57) God sent Jesus to save us. If we will draw near to God, He will do the same. (James 4:8)

Review

1. How did Jeremiah say he felt? (Jeremiah felt hopeless.)
2. What was Judah's situation? (Judah was captive in a strange land.)
3. What did Jeremiah say about God's love? (God's love never fails.)
4. What did Jeremiah decide to do? (Jeremiah decided to put his hope in God.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God's mercy is great. His love for us is great. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sin. Jesus rose from the dead. He lives. If we ask for forgiveness and believe, we can have eternal life, He will come and be a part of our lives forever. (Romans 10:9-10; John 3:16) Would you like to do that?

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to show us His mercy and love.
3. Ask God to help you put your hope in Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to put their hope in God.

Application

God punished Judah and they were taken captive to a strange land. Jeremiah knew that as difficult as things were, he could hope in God. Jeremiah understood that God's mercy is great and His love never fails. The Bible says, "God loves us deeply. He is full of mercy." (Ephesians 2:4 NIV)

Planning for Next Week

Ezekiel's Call — Ezekiel 2

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Lamentations 3:17-32 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Make hearts. Write the memory verse on the heart. Decorate the heart.

In Lamentations 3 Jeremiah talked about how God was not happy with His people. God punished them and they suffered. Jeremiah talked about how very sad he was. He said that he didn't remember what a good life was like.

Have you ever been somewhere you did not want to be? Have you ever had to do something you did not want to do? Judah was captive in a strange land. That means they were slaves. The situation that Judah was in was very difficult. They could not leave. Someone else told them what to do. It was very hard.

Jeremiah knew that God loved them. He knew that God is faithful. He knew that His mercy is great. "His loving concern never fails. His great love is new every morning." It is kind of like when your mom and dad correct or discipline you. They still love you. They never stop loving you.

Jeremiah understood that the only thing he needed was God. He believed that those who hope in God experienced the goodness of God. He said, "The Lord is everything I will ever need. So I will put my hope in him." God wants us to trust Him no matter what is happening. He wants us to wait, to hope, to believe that He will save us.

God sent Jesus to save us. If we will get close to God, He will do the same.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to show us His mercy and love.
3. Ask God to help you put your hope in Him.

Memory verse for younger children

God loves us deeply. He is full of mercy. Ephesians 2:4

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Make a collage of words for each child using cut out letters of the following: hope, trust, mercy, love never fails, faithful, etc. Leave room for the memory verse at the bottom. Practice the memory verse.

•**Test your memory** — Cut circles. Color sad and happy faces on the circles. Use the circles to tell the story. If something is sad, have the children hold up the sad circle. If something is happy, have the children hold up the happy circle. Focus on God’s goodness, love, and mercy.

•**Taste activity** — Bring candy wrapped like gold coins. Remind the children that God loves us and that is the greatest treasure in the world.

•**Think about it**— Jeremiah talked about how difficult life is but then he remembered that God is faithful. Talk about God’s faithfulness.

Jeremiah talked about how God saved him. Talk about God sending Jesus to save us.

•**Touch activity** — Bring coloring pages of a child reading the Bible. Color the page and talk about hope. Bring coloring pages of someone teaching the Bible. Color the picture and talk about believing God’s Word. Bring a coloring page of a soldier (someone with a sword) and talk about trusting God.

• **Run and play** — Divide the children into several groups. Ask one group to lead another group. The group that is leading will decide the games, go first, etc. Talk about how the people felt being captive. Let the groups change roles. The group that followed will lead.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to trust Him.

•**Sing** — Sing “My Redeemer is Faithful and True,” “Trust and Obey,” “Jesus Loves Me,” “I Have a Friend Who Loves Me,” or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the collage with the Bible verse to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

But God loves
us deeply.

He is full of
mercy.

Ephesians 2:4

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

God's

love

never

fails

Word Search

N S A D B S M S N L D O G P T
D R H B L F G U C Y H G U M R
N T E O G O D F C O P N G Y E
B M R M P T V F P S I O C H K
F S C U E E D E M S O R R B M
T H A R S M L R H D E D M F P
C D P E E T B E N M M T S R W
B R T R R D D E S E V F I S R
R B P R T C S B R S D S F T P
F M K N C S N P G S P N D L D
S T P S P N R F B N G K N R P
K R F D H A I M E R E J R M S
S T C H P G R R B L S G C J D
B T D N R B S H K P J D R H J

JEREMIAH

SUFFER

REMEMBER

MERCY

GOD

SAD

HOPE

GOODNESS

PUNISHED

HOPELESS

LOVE

TRUST

Word Search

N S A D B S M S N L D O G P T
 D R H B L F G U C Y H G U M R
 N T E O G O D F C O P N G Y E
 B M R M P T V F P S I O C H K
 F S C U E E D E M S O R R B M
 T H A R S M L R H D E D M F P
 C D P E E T B E N M M T S R W
 B R T R R D D E S E V F I S R
 R B P R T C S B R S D S F T P
 F M K N C S N P G S P N D L D
 S T P S P N R F B N G K N R P
 K R F D H A I M E R E J R M S
 S T C H P G R R B L S G C J D
 B T D N R B S H K P J D R H J

JEREMIAH

GOD

PUNISHED

SUFFER

SAD

HOPELESS

REMEMBER

HOPE

LOVE

MERCY

GOODNESS

TRUST

Word Search

N B M K R P S D R N B C T
D L R O M L K P B G C R C
T V D L R K H M P F P B C
C M N H E W S T H N W T S
G K D G B F K D T S R B M
R H M F N J E R E M I A H
M R P D N S A D E R S A F
S U F F E R B K M R D G S
M N J K D G M P M G F S R
S D R J H P U N I S H E D
N N P G O D B T F P A G S
H O P E M C K H S M R T S

JEREMIAH

GOD

PUNISHED

SUFFER

SAD

HOPE

Word Search

N B M K R P S D R N B C T
D L R O M L K P B G C R C
T V D L R K H M P F P B C
C M N H E W S T H N W T S
G K D G B F K D T S R B M
R H M F N J E R E M I A H
M R P D N S A D E R S A F
S U F F E R B K M R D G S
M N J K D G M P M G F S R
S D R J H P U N I S H E D
N N P G O D B T F P A G S
H O P E M C K H S M R T S

JEREMIAH

GOD

PUNISHED

SUFFER

SAD

HOPE

Anagram

DGO

VESOL

PELEDY

LULF

EMYRC

HEEIAPNSS

RIMAHEEJ

EBERRMME

OHEP



Anagram

GOD

LOVES

DEEPLY

FULL

MERCY

EPHESIANS

JEREMIAH

REMEMBER

HOPE