

St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!
JANUARY 31, 2016—THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JEREMIAH



God called Jeremiah and asked him to do a job—a tough and very important job. God wanted Jeremiah to talk to all of the people and tell them to listen to God; to do the good things that God wants them all to do. Jeremiah said “Don’t send me! I am only a boy, I can’t talk to people!” But God said back to Jeremiah “I am with you, you can do anything because I am with you.

BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

Jeremiah the Prophet

Jeremiah had a tough job. God asked him to go and tell people that they were doing things wrong, that God was unhappy with them. Jeremiah was a prophet from 656 to 587 B.C.E. just before and during the time when the Kingdom of Judah was overtaken by Babylon, the people taken into exile and Jerusalem and the Temple of Solomon were destroyed. (To compare—last week we learned about Nehemiah, who was a prophet during the return to Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the city and the Temple, about 70 years later.) Jeremiah was acting as a prophet during a difficult and turbulent time. The people didn't want to hear the truth of their situation. An important point from Jeremiah's story is that God gave him a difficult job to do and also gave him the help and courage that he needed to do it.

Help your kids to understand the story by answering these questions together. To find the answers look at Jeremiah 1:6-9

Circle the Correct Words:

Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know (**how to speak** or **how to ride a bike**), for I am only a boy.'

But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall (**go to all to whom I send you** or **just a few people**), and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you (**to deliver you** or **to forget you**), says the Lord.'

True or False:

- Jeremiah was a prophet.
- Jeremiah needed help from God to do the job God wanted him to do.
- Jeremiah ran away and ignored God.
- Jeremiah was probably a little afraid of what he had to do.
- God helped Jeremiah.

Dinner Table Conversation:

What difficult thing did you have to do today? How did you get it done?

What can you do if a task seems too hard to do? Who helps you to learn?

Who helps you to figure things out or learn a new skill?

Tell me about a time when you FINALLY were able to do something that seemed impossible.