Teacher Challenge

God had given Jeremiah strong words of warning for His people. Danger was coming. Some people listened seriously to the reading of Jeremiah’s scroll. But most of God’s warnings fell on deaf—or rebellious—ears. Then came the ultimate insult: As King Jehoiakim listened to God’s words, he cut the scroll off bit by bit with a knife, throwing the pieces into the fire. Even after Jehoiakim’s fall from power, his subjects followed his example of rebellion. They ignored the seriousness of Jeremiah’s further warning and angrily threw the prophet into a cistern.

What resistance have you encountered because of your obedience to God?

How have you seen others benefit from following God’s Word?

Those around you watch and notice your actions and attitudes, especially young children. When you repeat the same truths time after time as Jeremiah did and then live what you speak, others will see how to follow God, too. Ask God to keep you faithful.

Teacher’s Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.

2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.
Play to Learn

Active Game Center: Hidden Bible

Collect
Bible.

Do
1. Select a volunteer to close his or her eyes as you hide the Bible in the classroom. Be sure Bible can be seen but is not in too obvious a place. Let’s help Olivia find the Bible. Don’t make any noise when she is far from the Bible. Start clapping when she moves close to it.

2. Volunteer begins to move around classroom. Lead children in clapping faster and louder as the volunteer moves closer and closer to the Bible. Repeat with new volunteers as time allows. (Note: If you have a large class, call on two volunteers at a time.)

Talk About

In our Bible story Jeremiah said God’s words out loud, so Baruch (buh-ROOK) could write them down. We can know God’s words by reading the Bible. Let’s play a game to find a Bible.

Ethan, who reads to you from the Bible? I’m glad your mom reads Bible stories to you.

What do we do at church to learn about God’s Word, the Bible? Diego, when you listen to Bible stories and say Bible verses, you are learning God’s Word!

The Bible says, “I will obey God’s word.” To obey God’s Word means that we do the good things the Bible tells us to do. Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for Your Word, the Bible.

For Younger Children
Give verbal instructions to help children find the Bible: The Bible is near a chair.

For Older Children
Instead of finding a hidden Bible, children search for an index card on which you have printed the words of the Bible verse. Each time a child finds the card, he or she reads the verse, or read the verse for the child. Other children echo the words of the verse.
God’s Word
“I will obey God’s word.”
(See Psalm 119:17.)

God’s Word and Me
I can love others by helping them learn about God’s Word.

Play to Learn

Art Center:
Binding Books

Collect
Bible, yarn, scissors, measuring stick, tape, white paper, markers, construction paper, hole punch; optional—Lesson 51 Phrase Pattern from Discovering God’s Love CD-ROM.

Prepare
Cut yarn into 18-inch (45.5-cm) lengths. Wrap tape around one end to make a needle. Three or four times on a sheet of white paper, print “obey God’s Word.” (Optional: Make copies of Phrase Pattern from CD-ROM.) Make copies and cut phrases apart so that each child has a phrase. Fold sheets of construction paper in half and punch eight holes along the folded edges.

Do
1. Help children tie the untaped yarn end to the top hole of folded construction paper. Children sew yarn through holes to bind books. Make sure books lie flat when opened. Tie yarn around bottom hole and trim off excess yarn.
2. Children print their names inside books. Under his or her name, each child tapes a copy of the phrase “obeys God’s Word.” Children use markers to decorate books.

Talk About
➥ The Bible says, “I will obey God’s word.”
God’s Word is the Bible. Let’s make books about obeying God’s Word!

➥ Thank you, Abigail, for handing Trey his yarn. God’s Word says to help others. You obeyed God by helping Trey.

➥ Michael, who could you show your book to?
Showing others your book is a way to help them learn about God’s Word. Pray briefly, Dear God, help us obey Your Word, the Bible. We want to help others learn about the Bible, too.

For Younger Children
Instead of sewing a binding, children simply decorate folded and stapled sheets of construction paper. Print children’s names on insides of books.

For Older Children
On the book covers, make dots to spell the word “obey.” Children trace over dots to write the word.
Play to Learn

Block Center: Neighborhood Blocks

Collect
Bible, blocks, toy people.

Do
1. Children build roads and houses to represent their neighborhood.
2. Children move toy people around neighborhood and show ways of loving and helping their family and friends.

Talk About
- Let’s build our neighborhood and talk about ways to obey God’s Word, the Bible. When we obey, it helps others learn God’s Word, too.
- The Bible tells us to love each other. Sophia, who is someone who showed love to you today? Your mom obeyed the Bible when she showed you love!
- The Bible says, “I will obey God’s word.” Andrew, who is someone you love? You can show love to your brother by telling him about God’s Word.
- Pray briefly, Dear God, help us to obey Your Word. Help us tell it to others, so they can learn about Your Word, too.

God’s Word
“I will obey God’s word.”
(See Psalm 119:17.)

God’s Word and Me
I can love others by helping them learn about God’s Word.

For Younger Children
Allow children to play with blocks. Look for natural opportunities to use the conversation suggestions.

For Older Children
In addition to building blocks, provide a variety of cardboard boxes and other containers (grocery boxes, empty cereal boxes, potato chip cans, etc.) with which children build.
**Play to Learn**

**Science Center:**

**Water Pictures**

**Collect**
Bible; water; plastic or disposable bowls; a selection of paintbrushes, cotton swabs, rollers, sponges, etc; optional—construction paper in dark colors.

**Prepare**
Arrange to complete this activity outdoors on a paved area in a safe location. (Optional: If you cannot go outdoors, children paint with water on dark construction paper.) Place a small amount of water in each bowl.

**Do**
1. Children choose a painting implement from the supply you provide. Place a bowl of water on the ground for groups of three or four children to share.
2. Using your own painting implement and water, paint a shape (circle, triangle, square, wiggly line, numeral, letter, etc.) on the pavement and ask the children to identify it.
3. Children duplicate your shape. Continue with other shapes. Allow older children to suggest shapes for the group to paint.

**Talk About**
- The Bible says, “I will obey God’s word.” To obey means to do what we are told to do. You can follow my directions and paint different shapes!
- One way to learn what the Bible says is to listen to Bible stories. Justin, when are some times you listen to Bible stories?
- We can show love to others by helping them learn about God’s Word, the Bible. Andrea, who is someone you can tell God’s words to? What could you tell your friend about the Bible?
- Pray briefly, Dear God, help us love others and help them learn about Your Word, the Bible.

**For Younger Children**
Allow children to paint shapes and designs of their own choosing.

**For Older Children**
Children paint the word “obey.”
Listen to Learn

Jeremiah 36

Collect
Bible, Bible Story 21 pictures from God’s Story for Me Poster Pack #1, Preschool Music #1 CD and player, large sheet of paper, marker.

Greet Each Other
Children sit cross-legged in a circle and pass a Bible around the circle while you play “Come On In!” (track 1 on CD). When you stop the music, the child with the Bible says, “Hi, my name is Abigail.” The rest of the group waves to Abigail and replies, “Abigail will obey God’s Word.” Abigail stretches out her legs to show she has had a turn. Repeat activity until everyone has had a turn.

Tell the Story
Open your Bible to Jeremiah 36. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 21 pictures.

What words or letters do you know how to write? Listen to find out about some words a man wrote down.

Jeremiah told the people to love and obey God. But the people were not obeying God. God still loved the people. He wanted them to stop doing what was wrong. God told Jeremiah to write down God’s very important words.

Jeremiah called his helper Baruch (buh-ROOK). Jeremiah said the messages from God out loud. Baruch wrote the messages down on a scroll. (A scroll is like a long rolled-up sheet of paper with writing on it.)

“Take the scroll to the Temple and read it to the people,” Jeremiah told Baruch. The Temple was the place where God’s people came to pray and learn about God.

Baruch took the scroll to God’s Temple. He read it in a loud, clear voice. Some people went to King Jehoiakim (juh-HOY-uh-kuhm) and told him about the scroll.

The king ordered one of his helpers to bring the scroll to him. One of the king’s helpers read it to him. The king was angry about what God’s words said! The king grabbed a knife. He cut the scroll apart. He burned each piece in the fire!

The king may have thought he had gotten rid of God’s words. But God told Jeremiah, “Write the scroll again.” Jeremiah and Baruch obeyed God. They wrote another scroll just like the first one. Baruch read the scroll to the people again. But the king and the people did not listen. They kept doing what was wrong, so the sad things God said would happen, did happen.
Talk About the Story
How did Jeremiah and Baruch help people know about God’s words? (Wrote them down. Read them to people.) Jeremiah wanted his friends to learn from God’s words. His helper, Baruch, wrote them down for the people. We can show love to our family and friends by helping them learn about God’s Word. What are some ways we can help others learn about the Bible? (Tell them what the Bible says. Invite others to church. Sing a song about Jesus.)

Sing to God
Let’s sing a song about obeying God’s Word, the Bible. Lead children in singing “Hear the Word” (track 9 on CD). God tells us in His Word to love others. One way to show love to others is to tell them words from the Bible.

Hear and Say God’s Word
Holding your Bible open to Psalm 119:17, say verse aloud. God loves us and will help us to obey His Word, the Bible. When we obey God’s Word, it helps others learn about and obey God’s Word, too. Lead the children in repeating the verse using these motions: Point to self for “I”; point up for “God”; turn palms up and place hands together for “word” (Bible). Repeat several times.

Pray to God
The Bible tells us to obey God’s Word. Let’s pray to God and tell Him we want to obey Him. Ask volunteers to say the words of the verse as a short prayer. Close, asking for God’s help to obey His Word.

Praise to God
Children sit in a circle to play a game like Duck, Duck, Goose. Invite a volunteer to walk around the circle and say, “The Bible says,” touching a child’s head on each word. After repeating the phrase several times, volunteer says “Share” when touching a child. Child who was touched on “Share” runs around the circle and volunteer takes child’s place. Repeat game as time and interest allow, using other Bible commands such as “help,” “be kind” and “be honest.” God loves us and will help us obey His Word, the Bible. We can help our family and friends obey the Bible, too.
Talk to Learn

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect
A copy of Activity 21 from The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1 for yourself and each child, scissors, crayons or markers, tape, 8-inch (20.5-cm) length of yarn; optional—craft sticks, glue.

Do
Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue craft sticks to ends of their scroll and roll scrolls on sticks). Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect
Copies of Puzzles 101 and 102 (p. 209 and p. 211 from The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do
Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect
A copy of Story Picture 51 from The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1 for yourself and each child, crayons or markers, glue, circle-shaped cereal.

Do
Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.