

Twentieth Sunday of the Year

Jeremiah in the well

INTRODUCTION

God's people had turned away from him to worship false gods and lead wicked lives. God sent the prophet Jeremiah to tell the people to turn back to him, or their lives would end in disaster.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Sing together the alternate Candle Song.

SORRY

The prophet Jeremiah tried to get God's people to turn back to him and change their hearts. We turn to God now to ask for his forgiveness and to make our hearts more loving as we sing Sorry Song 5.

GLORIA

ACCLAMATION

Change our hearts, Lord, and bring us back to you.

READING (JEREMIAH 38:3-6, 8-13)

Jeremiah went to see the king of Judah with a message from God. "The king of Babylon and his army will capture Jerusalem and destroy the city, and many of your people will be killed," said Jeremiah.

When the army commanders heard what Jeremiah was saying, they went to the king and said, "This man does not want to help us! He is making the people and our soldiers afraid and must be put to death!" The king agreed to their request, so they took Jeremiah to a deep well and threw him in.

There was no water in the well, but Jeremiah sank into the deep mud at the bottom. When one of the king's servants heard what had happened, he went to the king to plead for Jeremiah's life to be spared. "Your Majesty, he has done nothing wrong," said the servant. So the king ordered the servant to take some men and pull Jeremiah out of the well before he died.

DISCUSSION

(Remind the children that a prophet was someone who spoke in the name of God and made his plans known to the people.)

Why was Jeremiah treated so badly and thrown down the well? Jeremiah foretold that the king of Babylon would capture the city of Jerusalem and destroy it. The army commanders did not want him to spread fear and doubt among the people and their army, so they decided to kill him.

But everything happened as Jeremiah had said, and the people began to realize that they had lived badly and had to change their ways. Through Jeremiah, God invited them back to his love and a new way of life.

Many of Jesus' disciples were imprisoned for their belief in the teachings of Jesus; sometimes they were even put to death. Like Jeremiah, they were full of courage and did whatever they had to, so that they would change people's lives and bring them back to God.

Sometimes people laugh or ridicule us because we do what we know is right. They might call us names if we walk away from a fight in the playground, or treat someone kindly. Like Jeremiah and the disciples, we can overcome any hardship because we have God to love and take care of us.

ACTIVITY

Make a copy of the picture of Jeremiah, color it, and glue it onto some stiff cardboard. Then tape the figure to a popsicle stick. Fold a piece of paper, as illustrated, to make a well, and after placing Jeremiah inside, staple the bottom. Jeremiah can be moved up and down to peep out of the well!

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

God is goodness itself
and he loves those
who share his goodness with others
by their words or actions.
He will surround them with his love
and always watch over them.

(Psalm 11:7)

