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**Children’s Activities**

**Jeremiah 29:5; 7; 11 (NIV)\***

5) Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 7) Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper. 11) “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Lesson Objectives: Building a life of faith

1. Children/families will create a “new home” using building blocks/cubes/Legos/Lincoln Logs together.
2. Using Jeremiah 29, children/families will explore what it means to be a “Person of Faith” through song, video and/or stories.
3. Children/families will build a “City of Faith” together.

**GATHERING ACTIVITY (10 minutes)**

As the children enter the space, say “WELCOME” to each child. Allow children to gather at one table as they enter the space. Have one type (all cubes or all Legos or all building blocks) of blocks out on the table for children to begin to build as they enter. Tell them to build something for our “new city” using the blocks on the table.

Once all students have gathered, allow each person to tell you what they have built with the blocks. **Say:**

*You are all really good builders. I wonder if you could help me build a new city like some of our friends had to build in the Bible. But before we do that, listen as I read the story to you* **AND/OR** *let’s watch this story about Jeremiah* (see appendix).

* NOTE: The written story is a transcription of the video. Feel free to use the pictures (or other props) to enhance the story as you read. It is recommended to read the story and watch the video (for repetition) in any order.

After you have watched the video or read the story, ask the following questions and allow the children time to answer:

**ASK:** *How did the people feel when they were far away from their homes?* (Sad, worried, angry)

**+** EXTRA! Ask the children to show you their sad face, worried face and angry face. **+**

**ASK:** *Who was with Jeremiah when he spoke to the people?* (God)

**ASK:** *What images did God give to Jeremiah?* (Branch of a tree, boiling pot and pot of clay)

**+** EXTRA! Show the children the pictures in the images. **+**

**ASK:** *Who listened to Jeremiah when he prayed?* (God)

**SAY:** *Just like God listened to Jeremiah when he prayed, God listens to you when you pray.*

*Today we are praying for God to help us build a life of faith. Like Jeremiah, we need feet* [tap your feet] *that GO. We need hands* [move your hands like you’re kneading dough or grabbing a fistful of soil] *that SOW. We need a heart* [place your hand over your heart] t*o know. We need a mind* [use both hands to touch your temples with your fingertips] *to GROW.* (See appendix for example pictures.)

**SCRIPTURE EXPLORATION (25 minutes total)**

**SAY:** *Before we explore the Scripture, let’s say a prayer.*

Say the prayer below or invite one of the children to pray.

*Dear God, thank you for our time together. Thank you for our friends. Help us hear your words. Teach us how to build our faith. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.*

**● Read Jeremiah 29:5; 7; 11 (NIV) — reading exploration (20 minutes)**

***5)*** *Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.* ***7)*** *Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.* ***11)*** *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

After you have read the Scriptures, ask the following questions and allow the children time to answer:

**ASK:** *What did God tell the people to build?* (Houses)

**ASK:** *What did God tell the people to plant?* (Gardens; vegetables to eat)

**ASK:** *Who listens when we pray?* (God)

**SAY:** *We are going to build our very own “city of faith” like Jeremiah’s friends. We need houses, a garden and in order to build a city of faith we need people of faith, too. Right? We are people of faith. This is what we have.* (Show the children the pictures you have.) *Do we need anything else?* Allow children time to respond.

**ACTIVITY:** You can play the “Journey of a Lifetime” song in the background while the children work. Allow children to color the pictures provided in the appendix. Feel free to add other things that they suggest belongs in their “City of Faith.” You can let the children color the picture that corresponds with their ability level. Also, allow the children who work well with scissors to help with cutting the pictures out. Use some or all of the pictures that were used as props when telling the story. Let the children decide what they want to contribute to the city. For example, multiple children may choose to build a house for the city or multiple children may decide to plant a tree in the city. Give them choices according to their ability to choose. You should have the sheets pre-printed according to the number of students you anticipate. Depending on the number of children, you can:

A) Have some of the pictures already colored, cut and glued to the scene of the “City of Faith.” Or …

B) Let the children build it all. Let the children color, cut and glue the necessary components for their “City of Faith.” Or …

C) Use magazine clippings to create, complete and/or complement the “City of Faith.” See the pictures for an example.

**● Play the song “Journey of a Lifetime” — singing exploration\* (5 minutes)**

[JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME LYRIC VIDEO | Kids on the Move](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAsVAQld2p0&list=PLBJuK6cICI15nXKimsn3DGfe5Z_O-ofb3&index=2)

**CLOSING ACTIVITY (5–10 minutes)**

Creating a person of faith. Using the picture in the appendix, build a person of faith. Jeremiah was a person of faith, and we learned a lot from reading about him. In order to be faithful to the voice of God, we can use both Jeremiah and Jesus as an example.

I need feet that GO.

Hands that SOW.

A heart to KNOW.

And a mind to GROW.

**CLOSING prayer**

*Dear God, please help us to live a life full of faith. Give us courage to help build a “City of Faith” where all people are welcome and all people are safe. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.*

**EXTENSION OPTION**

There is an instructional video with movement to the “Journey of a Lifetime” song. Learn the movement ahead of time and teach it to the children or let them learn it from the video.

\*It is recommended that the teacher read Jeremiah 29:1–20 for full context.

APPENDIX

[Jeremiah talks about God/Bible Story for Kids/Prophet Jeremiah Bible Story](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2bxnVX8UU4)

**Jeremiah talks about God/Bible Story for Kids/Prophet Jeremiah Bible Story Little Seeds Children’s Ministry**

Hi, kids!

Today’s story is Jeremiah talks about God.

Do you remember King Josiah?

While he was king, God gave special messages to a boy named Jeremiah.

During that time, God’s people were going through very difficult times, and they were far

away from their homes. That is why they were all very sad, worried and even angry, but God

gave all of them a very special message through Jeremiah. One day, God told Jeremiah, “I knew you before you were born. I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations,” but Jeremiah said, “But Lord, I can't speak for you. I'm too young.” Then God replied, “Don't say I'm too young. For you must go wherever I send you, and say whatever I tell you, and don't be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you.” The Lord has spoken!

From that day forward, God gave Jeremiah special messages, and sometimes he even gave Jeremiah images like a branch of a tree, a boiling pot and a pot of clay. There was a very special message that God gave Jeremiah. God said, “I will come and do for you all of the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster; to give you a future and a hope. When you pray, I will listen, and if you look for me with your whole hearts, you will find me.” That was how Jeremiah spoke about God with everyone, even when some people did not want to listen. Jeremiah became a very special messenger of God since he was very young, and with this story, we learn that just like Jeremiah, we must talk about God with others, and share his message.



PLANT GARDEN VEGETABLES



BUILD HOUSES



BOILING POT



TREES with BRANCHES



CLAY JAR