ENDURING FAITH™
Sunday School • Midweek
Bible Curriculum

ONE-ROOM STUDY GUIDE

Unit 2: God Redeems His People



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

THE ONE-ROOM CLASSROOM

This guide was created for leaders who teach multiple ages in one classroom. Options for younger and older children, size, and ability of your group help you tailor the lessons to your needs. Check boxes help you choose and prepare the activities for each lesson.

OVERVIEW

The Overview lets you see the biblical foundation of each lesson at a glance. All levels of the Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum share the same Bible Truth, Bible Verse, Law & Gospel, and Scripture Snapshot, allowing families to learn together each week.

LESSON PREP

Use these suggestions for your own Bible study as you prepare to lead this lesson.
Basic: Begin here—read the full Bible text.
More Time: Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center (cph.org/digitalcontent).
In Depth: Gain a deeper understanding of the narrative and its context.

SUPPLIES

For This Lesson: Gather only the supplies for the activities you choose to use. You may want to put together a Supply Box of frequently used items to keep on hand. Look below for suggestions of items to include in the Supply Box.
For Every Lesson: Use this checklist as a reminder of items that you may want to have on hand for every lesson.

SUPPLY BOX

The items in the Supply Box are used frequently. Gather them to be prepared for many of the lesson activities.

- ☐ White copy paper, construction paper, tissue paper
- ☐ Crayons, markers, colored pencils, pencils, pens
- ☐ Paint, paint brushes, and smocks
- ☐ School glue, glue sticks, tape, glitter glue
- ☐ Child-friendly scissors, hole punch, stapler
- ☐ Yarn, pom-poms, craft sticks, pipe cleaners
- ☐ Wiggle eyes, beads, buttons, stickers
- ☐ Paper plates, paper lunch bags, paper cups
- ☐ Play dough and tools
- ☐ Posterboard or large sheets of paper

LAUNCH

Begin: Use the Opening Worship, the Lesson Opening, and/or music from the digital resource center.
Say: Choose an option to help get children thinking.
Prayer: Call upon God's name and ask for His guidance as you study His Word.

LEARN

Tell the Bible Narrative: Two narrative options are provided—one for younger children and one for older children.
Do This: Choose an option to review the lesson.
Talk about It: Choose questions to fit the learning level of your group.
Key Discussion Points: These points guide your discussion and highlight biblical truths.
Christ Connection: This shows how Jesus is central to every lesson.

LIVE

A variety of activity options lets you choose how you will reinforce the Bible truths of the lesson. Choose from crafts, snack, movement, Bible Verse fun, and more. Remember to gather the supplies you will need for each activity option you choose.

LEAVE

Say: This thought sums up the truth of the lesson.
Prayer: Give thanks to God for His blessings, love, and new life in Jesus.

DIGITAL RESOURCE CENTER

(cph.org/digitalcontent)

PLANNING PAGES

See Planning Pages for Leader Devotions, Order of Opening Worship, and Lesson Openings.

MUSIC RESOURCES

Download music for each unit.

ENDURING FAITH PAGES

Enduring Faith Pages provide a reproducible take-home resource that gives a summary of each Bible lesson and provides suggestions for "taking home" Bible truths from the lesson. Each page also has an illustrated version of the day's Bible Verse, perfect for coloring.

DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITY PAGES

Each lesson has an extra activity page that can be downloaded and photocopied.

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ENDURING FAITH™
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ONE-ROOM
Unit 2
STUDY GUIDE
Lesson 1

A DIVIDED KINGDOM

Jeroboam and Rehoboam
1 Kings 11:9–13, 26–40; 12:1–24
932 and 931 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH
God is faithful, even when we are not.

BIBLE VERSE
[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God. Romans 8:39

LEARNER GOAL
I understand that God always loves us, even when we do the wrong thing.

LAW & GOSPEL
Influenced by the sinful ways of the world, we turn away from God and fail to follow His commandments.
God remains faithful to His people, showing His love and care for us through His Son, Jesus.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT
Through the prophet Ahijah, Solomon's faithful servant Jeroboam learns he will lead ten tribes of a divided kingdom. Rehoboam, Solomon's heir, ignores the pleas of the people to lighten their load; instead, he threatens to make their workload even more difficult.
Angered by his response, the ten tribes of Israel separate, making Jeroboam their leader, leaving Rehoboam to lead the tribes of Judah and Benjamin from Jerusalem. Jeroboam places golden calves in Bethel and Dan, telling the people they no longer need to go to Jerusalem to worship. The kingdom of David was divided, never to be brought together again in the same way. Believers of all ages now look to the Son of David to bring all nations together into His kingdom.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read 1 Kings 11:9–13, 26–40; 12:1–24; and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.
MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center (cph.org/digitalcontent).
IN DEPTH Read "Kings and Prophets of Judah and Israel" in *TLSB*, p. 529.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Cardboard blocks
- ☐ Plastic gems
- ☐ Yellow cheese slices, dried cereal, raisins
- ☐ Small crackers

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Device with prepped music
- ☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
- ☐ Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- ☐ Supply Box

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LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

☐ Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).

☐ Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

SAY

☐ **God's people were together in one kingdom. But things didn't stay that way. Today, we'll find out what happened when a kingdom broke apart because the people didn't listen to God.**

☐ **When captains pick teams, each team gets the same number of players, right? In today's Bible account, the twelve tribes of Israel split up in a very different way.**

PRAY

Dear God, we are glad You are our King! Help us learn about Your love, especially how You forgive us through Jesus and always lead us. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

☐ **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** Set up cups or blocks. Divide them into a large pile and a small pile when you tell about the kingdom dividing. Tell that the small pile was Rehoboam's kingdom and the large pile was Jeroboam's. As you tell the story, give children time to understand by pausing at important places and asking simple questions, such as "I wonder how they felt? or "Was this a good thing?"

☐ **FOR VISUAL LEARNERS** As you read the narrative, make some visual cues (similar to a "chalk talk") to help students follow this complicated story. Start by writing Solomon's name on the board or on a piece of poster-size paper. Put an X through his name. Draw a connecting arrow downward, then write the name of Solomon's son Rehoboam. Write "Jeroboam" off to the side. When Rehoboam makes the people work harder, draw an X through his name. When Jeroboam makes two golden calves, draw an X through his name. Put the words "Northern Kingdom" next to Jeroboam and "Southern Kingdom" next to Rehoboam. Add other illustrations to the story, if you wish.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

☐ Both Rehoboam and Jeroboam wanted to get their own way. How do we try to get our own way? What is God's way?

☐ Why do you think Rehoboam didn't listen to the wise advisers?

☐ What happens when we turn away from God and try to work things out according to what we want and not according to what God wants?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- Let students share how they try to get their own way. God's way is different. He loves and thinks of others.
- Rehoboam was proud. He wanted to look strong.
- Things go wrong when we go against God's will.
- It's easy to focus on the negative parts of this story; there were so many people not doing God's will. But through it all, the Gospel message of God's saving grace prevails. God did not leave His people to their own devices, but He honored His promise that a Savior would come from the house of David.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Because of Jesus, we are forgiven for the times we want our own way.

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BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: For added interest, make two paper-plate faces with a crown on each one. Make one face red for Rehoboam and one face blue for Jeroboam. Show the correct face as you tell about each king. After you name each king, call them King R and King J, if you wish.

Do you remember King David? God loved David, and David loved God. God helped David to be a good king for His people. But David was not the best king of all.

David's son Solomon was a good and wise king too. But then Solomon stopped listening to God and started praying to idols! Oh no! This made God angry. Solomon was not the best king of all either!

God told the people that Solomon's kingdom would be divided in two parts (*hold up two fingers*), and there would be two kings (*hold up two fingers*) instead of one! When King Solomon died, his son Rehoboam (ray-oh-BOH-uhm) wanted to be king. *Show plate with red face.* The people came to Rehoboam and said, "Your father made hard rules for us. Will you be a nice king or a mean king?"

King Rehoboam thought about it. He asked lots of people what to do. But he did not ask God. Oh no! That was a big mistake! He told the people, "I will make hard rules for you. I will not be a nice king."

This did not make the people happy. So they said, "We want Jeroboam (jer-uh-BOH-uhm) to be our king." *Show blue face.*

Now Solomon's kingdom was divided in two parts (*hold up two fingers*) instead of one big kingdom. There were two kings (*hold up two fingers*) instead of one king. Jeroboam's kingdom was bigger than Rehoboam's kingdom.

God said to King Rehoboam (*show red plate*), "I told your father the kingdom would be divided in two because he did not worship and obey only Me. But I will save your little kingdom because it's part of My plan that the best king of all will come from your kingdom."

King Rehoboam's kingdom was small, but it had God's temple church. Still, King Rehoboam (*show red plate*) prayed to idols. God does not want us to do that! That made God sad and angry. King Rehoboam was not the best king of all. King Jeroboam's kingdom was much bigger. But King Jeroboam (*show blue plate*) prayed to idols too, and he did not do what God wanted. He was not the best king of all either.

But God kept His promise to King Rehoboam (*show red plate*). Many years later, He sent His Son, Jesus, to be born from a family in King Rehoboam's little kingdom. Jesus is the best king of all! He is the King of kings and Lord of lords! Jesus came to die on the cross for us and rise again. Because of Jesus, God forgives our sins. Because of Jesus, God gives us a home in His heavenly kingdom, where Jesus will reign as our King forever.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

When Solomon was young, he loved God and built the great temple. But when he got older, he thought it would be smart to marry princesses from other countries. He thought that would keep their fathers, who were kings, from attacking Israel and maybe hurting their daughters. Solomon should have trusted God to protect Israel instead. These princesses believed in many false gods, and since Solomon loved them more than he loved God, he built temples to their gods in Jerusalem.

God was angry that Solomon had turned away from Him and led Israel to turn away too. He decided to take the kingdom away from Solomon's son. But since He promised to send the Savior from David's line, God decided not to take every tribe away from David. David's family would keep the tribe of Judah (called the Southern Kingdom, or Judah, although it also included Simeon and part of Benjamin). But God would give ten tribes to another man.

Solomon died, and his son Rehoboam (ray-oh-BOH-uhm) became king. One leader of Solomon's workers was named Jeroboam (jer-uh-BOH-uhm). Jeroboam and the Israelites said they would serve Rehoboam if he didn't make them work as hard as they had to work for Solomon.

Rehoboam asked the older people who served his father what he should do. They gave him good advice. They told him the people would serve him if he did what they asked. But Rehoboam didn't like what they said. He was too proud and wanted to show the people he was strong. He asked his young friends, and they told him to act tough. Rehoboam told Jeroboam he would make Israel work even harder than his father, Solomon, had made them work.

The other tribes got so mad they left and made Jeroboam their king. Rehoboam gathered his soldiers to go and fight against them. But God told him not to fight—God had divided Israel into two kingdoms. Rehoboam obeyed God and let the other tribes leave. We call those other tribes the Northern Kingdom or Israel.

Jeroboam was a strong king, but he didn't trust God. He was afraid his people would want to leave him and be part of David's kingdom when they went up to worship God in the Jerusalem temple. So he made two golden calves and set one up in the northern part of his kingdom and the other in the southern part. This made God angry because the people of the Northern Kingdom turned away from Him to these false gods who could not help them.

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LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

☐ Make Crowns

Using construction paper or large foam sheets, cut out a crown strip for each child, about 18 inches in length (look online for a template). Wrap a crown around each child's head and tape to fit. Cut off extra. Children can decorate using stickers, plastic gems, or other items.



☐ Work Together



Split children into two groups. Have each group line up, holding hands, at a designated spot. Ask them to reach for a wall or other place that is not possible to actually reach. Then, join the groups together and ask them to reach to the same spot, now within reach. Say, **Things are usually easier when we all work together. In Jesus, God's kingdom is very big! We can all work together to help others and tell about Jesus.**

☐ Say the Bible Verse



Read the verse from Romans 8:39 in your Bible; have children say and do the actions with you. Tell them *separate* means "to divide" or "to take apart." Because God sent Jesus to be our Savior, we know that He loves and forgives us: We are never apart from God's love.

[**Nothing**] **will**	*Cross arms and shake head.*
be able to separate	*Sweep arms apart.*
us from	*Point to self.*
the love of God.	*Hug self.*

☐ Build a Castle

Set out cardboard blocks and let children work together to build a castle. Say, **Sometimes we don't want to work together. We sin and hurt others. But God sent Jesus to forgive our sins. He is the best King!**



☐ Crown Snack

Pass out yellow cheese slices, dry cereal, and raisins. Use a plastic knife to cut a crown shape from the cheese, and invite the children to decorate their crown before eating it. Say, **The Bible says that we will have the crown of life. What did Jesus, our King, do to give us this crown?**



☐ Good Idea/Bad Idea



Give examples of good ideas and bad ideas. Ask children to stand for a good idea and sit for a bad idea. Examples can include brushing teeth, sleeping on eggs, washing hair with applesauce, and praying for others. Some can be silly, some serious. Sometimes we have bad ideas. God always has good ideas. We can trust God's ideas.

☐ Cracker Tribes



Give each child 2 paper plates, one with the letter *J* on one side and the other with the letter *R* on it (to represent the two kings). Give everyone 12 crackers. Retell the account, telling students to move 10 crackers to the *J* plate and 2 to the *R* plate. Allow students to eat all crackers except one, representing Judah. Jesus, our Savior, came from the tribe of Judah.

LEAVE

SAY

God loves us! Sometimes we fight or don't get along. But God helps us to be sorry. He promises to forgive us through Jesus, our King of kings. All believers are part of one, big kingdom that belongs to God.

PRAY

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for Your mercies, which are new each day. Thank You for always being faithful to us, even when we make mistakes and don't follow Your Word. Guide us this week to do Your will. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

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ONE-ROOM
Unit 2
STUDY GUIDE
Lesson 2

COMFORT IN CAPTIVITY

Jeremiah
Jeremiah 1:4–10; 29:1–14; 31:31–34; 33:14–16
588 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH
God is faithful, even in difficult times.

BIBLE VERSE
I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

LEARNER GOAL
I understand that God is faithful and keeps His promises.

LAW & GOSPEL
Sin separates us from God and causes us to feel hopeless and without direction.
Jesus, David's righteous branch, came to restore our relationship with God, giving us a future and the hope of eternal life.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT
When God calls Jeremiah to serve Him, God tells Jeremiah he was chosen as God's prophet even before he was formed in the womb. When Nebuchadnezzar takes the Israelites into exile in Babylon, Jeremiah writes to the exiles, assuring them of God's continuing care for them.
Through Jeremiah, God promises a new covenant where all people will have the Law written on their hearts. God's people will live under an eternal covenant through Jesus—David's righteous branch.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Jeremiah 1:4–10; 29:1–14; 31:31–34; 33:14–16 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.
MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.
IN DEPTH Read pages 1205 and 1258 in *TLSB* for historical context about the exile.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Letter in an envelope with "70" written on it
- ☐ Small box covered in wrapping paper
- ☐ Baby food jars (one per child)
- ☐ Pocket crosses (one per child)
- ☐ Vegetable oil
- ☐ Blue food coloring
- ☐ Glitter
- ☐ Round crackers, dried cranberries, or mini candy-coated chocolates
- ☐ Card stock

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Device with prepped music
- ☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
- ☐ Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- ☐ Supply Box

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LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

☐ Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).

☐ Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

SAY

☐ **Have you ever been left in a new place or with someone you didn't know? How did you feel? Today, you'll hear how God's people were taken far from home. They were sad and anxious. But God had a plan to show them He loved them.**

☐ **Are you good at waiting? Could you wait seventy years for someone to keep a promise? Listen for the place in our Bible account where God tells His people to wait for seventy years.**

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for the Bible where You tell us You love us. Thank You for keeping Your promises, especially Your promise to send Jesus to be our Savior. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

☐ **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** Focus on learning the main actions of this story; the who, what, where, and why. Use four items to represent the four sections of the story. A Bible for Jeremiah's call, a letter in an envelope with a large number 70 on it, a small box covered in wrapping paper to denote a promise (it's a gift that God is giving us), and a picture of Jesus. Let students hold and use the items to retell the story in their own words.

☐ **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** Use the items listed in the previous paragraph for students to re-tell the story. If you have strong readers who like a lot of action and who may already know the basics about Jeremiah, read together Jeremiah 38: 1–13 for the additional story of Jeremiah being thrown in the well.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

☐ What was Jeremiah's message to God's people in a far away land?

☐ Jeremiah was young man when he was called to be a prophet. He felt like he wouldn't know what to say. How did God help Jeremiah? How does God help you to share His Word, especially when you feel too young or unqualified?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- God promised His people that He would take care of them. He still loved them. He would bring them back to their homeland someday.
- Sometimes, we may be far away from home. God promises to be with us there too. Just as God was faithful to Jeremiah, He is faithful to us, no matter where we are.
- God promises to help us share the good news of Jesus with others.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God keeps all of His promises, especially His promise to send Jesus to save us from sin.

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BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Pretend you are Jeremiah as you tell the story. Ask children to make happy and sad faces, imitating you.

There was a young man named Jeremiah. God loved Jeremiah and called him to be a prophet. A prophet is someone who speaks for God and tells people what God wants them to know. God told Jeremiah to tell His people, "You have broken your promises to Me. You don't listen to Me anymore. You don't love Me. You have done wrong things, so you will be punished." Soon, an enemy king and his army attacked the city of Jerusalem, where God's people lived. The king took many of God's people away from their homes to his country. They had to live far away from home in a strange country called Babylon. They were so sad, they cried. *Make a sad face.*

God told Jeremiah to give His people in Babylon a message. Jeremiah still lived in Jerusalem. So he wrote down what God said and sent a letter to the people.

This is what Jeremiah told the people: "God rules over everything! He has heard you crying. He knows you are sad. *Make a sad face.* He wants you to know He loves you. He is still with you, even though you are far away from home now and live in Babylon."

Jeremiah continued, "This is what God wants you to do: Build houses. Plant gardens and eat what grows in them. Get married and have children. When your children grow up, let them get married and have children. Work hard. Trust in God and pray to Him. Do not listen to anyone who tells you lies about God. You will have to live in Babylon for many years. Then, God will bring you back home again. He has good plans for you." How do you think hearing this message made the people feel?

Then, God told Jeremiah, "I will make things better. I will bring the people back from Babylon, and they will have peace. I will take away all of their sins. Things will be like they were before the people were taken away. The people will praise Me and thank Me for all I do for them. All My promises will come true, and someday, I will send Jesus to save all people from their sins."

Jeremiah and the people were happy to hear God's message! *Make a happy face.* God's message helped them know that God loved them and would take care of them. Many years later, God kept His promise and brought the people back to Jerusalem. And many years after that, God kept His promise and sent Jesus to be our Savior.

God gives us a message too. God's message is found in the Bible. God knows that we think and say and do wrong things too. But He promises to be with us always and take care of us. No matter where we go, God will not leave us alone. Because Jesus died on the cross and came alive again, God forgives all our sins. He promises to bring us to our home in heaven after we die. That is happy news! *Make a happy face.* God always keeps His promises!

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

It had been hundreds of years since King Solomon died and the tribes of Israel were divided. The tribe of Judah remained in the Southern Kingdom as the last of God's faithful people. Over the years, there were many kings ruling over God's people in Jerusalem. Many did not love God as they should. Many people worshiped idols instead of the one true God. King Josiah was the last faithful king. He was one of the most faithful kings of all the kings after David.

During the reign of King Josiah, God called Jeremiah to be a prophet to his people in Jerusalem. Jeremiah was a young man, probably less than twenty years old, when he was called. Jeremiah thought he was too young and that he could not speak well enough. But God told Jeremiah that He had known Jeremiah since before he was born. God touched Jeremiah's mouth and gave Him the words to speak.

In the thirty years after God called Jeremiah to be a prophet, many terrible things happened to the tribe of Judah because of their sins. Jerusalem was captured by Babylon. Many of God's people were taken into exile in Babylon. False prophets spread lies about Jeremiah. This was not a good time for God's people. Many had not been faithful to God, and the people were suffering terribly.

God wrote a letter to His people in exile through Jeremiah. God told them in this letter to settle into their situation, have families, take care of one another, and wait for seventy years until they would be returned to Jerusalem. Even though this was a very difficult time, God kept His promise to return them to their land. God promised that the people of Israel would have a future, and He gave them hope that He would never abandon them.

Jeremiah stayed in Jerusalem with God's people who were still there. It was a very dangerous time for Jeremiah. Many people wanted to kill him for showing them their sin and speaking the true Word of God. Through all this, God did not abandon Jeremiah or His people. God continued to bring His Word to His people. He even made a new covenant with them, even though they had not been faithful to the last covenant. God promised that all would know Him and that He would forgive their sins.

Then, he made an even bigger promise to God's people. This was the promise that He would send a Savior for all people. This Savior would come from the line of David, just as God had promised so long ago. That Savior would be Jesus.

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LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

☐ Cross Walk

Walk around your room or to church to look for cross shapes (window panes, floor tiles, tree branches, books). Take pictures on a device. As you look at the pictures, talk about how God promised to send Jesus to be our Savior. When we are sad, we can remember that God keeps all His promises.



☐ Happy/Sad Faces

Give each child a small paper plate and crayons. How do they feel when they're sad? Have them draw a sad face on one side of the plate. When God's people were sad, they cried. Let children dip their fingers in a cup of water and sprinkle "tears" on their sad face. God promises to be with us in sad times. Have children make a happy face on the other side of the plate. Put a heart sticker on the plate. Jesus loves us and makes us happy again.



☐ Promise Jar



Use baby food jars, pocket crosses, water, oil, blue food coloring, glitter, and glue. Fill each jar with water. Add a tablespoon of oil, two drops of food coloring, a cross, and glitter. Put a small amount of glue on the metal threads inside the lid. Tightly screw the lid to the jar. Shake gently. Talk about troubles or "shake-ups" in our lives that make us think God is not there. Say, **But look closely and you will see the cross, which reminds us that God is with us and loves us. He keeps His promises through Jesus.**

☐ Bible Verse

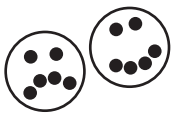


Read the Bible Verse. God's plans are always good. Say,

[**God says,**]	*Point up, then to mouth.*
"I know the plans	*Point to head.*
I have for you."	*Point to others.*

☐ Happy/Sad Snack

Use dried cranberries or mini candy-covered chocolates to make happy and sad faces on round crackers. God's people were sad, but God's message made them happy. He promised to be with them and bring them home. Talk about how God keeps His promises to us.



☐ Make Mail



Set out cards, paper, envelopes, pens, and sticker "stamps." Encourage children to write a note or draw a picture. We send letters or cards to tell people we care about them. Say, **In today's Bible narrative, God told Jeremiah to send a letter to His people who were far away from home to tell them He loved them.**

☐ Name Cards

Cover the table and hand out smocks. Print each child's name in big letters on a piece of cardstock. Have children use glitter glue or paint to trace over their name. Say, **God made you and loves you. He knows you by name. He is with you, even in troubles. He has special plans for you.**



LEAVE

SAY

God is faithful, even in difficult times. Jeremiah certainly knew that, and so do we. We can trust God to do what He says He will do.

PRAY

Thank You, heavenly Father, for giving us hope and a future through the sacrifice of Jesus. Thank You for being with us in good times and bad times. You never abandon Your people. We love being Your people, Lord. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

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