

The True And Living God

Jeremiah 10:1-16

MEMORY VERSE

JEREMIAH 10:10

“But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Two packages of unsweetened Kool-Aid (any flavor), sugar, water and two pitchers.

Two paper plates for each child, scissors, a ruler, pencils, magazine pictures (especially of nature), glue, paper, fastener, hole punch, marker or crayon.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Idols Cannot Move

Here’s a fun exercise that everyone in your class can do. Ask them face a wall and stand arms length from it with their feet close together. They should carefully lean against the wall so that only their forehead is touching it and their body is stiff and straight. Have them cross their arms in front of them. When everyone is in this position, tell them that on the count of three; they can try to stand upright. They must keep their body stiff and their arms crossed. Count to three and let them go.

The children will struggle to stand upright without bending at their waist or using their arms. Allow them a few seconds to try. Begin to go around to students and help them to stand up straight.

After you have helped them all to stand straight, gather your class in a circle and introduce today’s lesson. Idols in the Bible times were made out of wood, stone, or metal. They could not breathe, move, create, or help anyone. The people who made

them had to help them, just like your teacher had to help you! And yet, they worshipped them. Sounds pretty crazy, huh? Sadly, people are still worshipping other things besides the true and living God, today. May we not be guilty of idolatry. **Our God is the true and the living God.**

LESSON TIME!

God warns His people to not worship false gods. It may seem funny, even foolish, to think that people back in those days would worship a statue or a piece of wood; yet, we are all capable of idol worship! Anything or anyone that assumes a more important place in our hearts than God is an idol. Nothing or no one should be more important than Him. We must guard our hearts against idolatry. To the sorrow of those who worship them, idols are of no value in the time of trouble. They are impotent—they cannot help. Yet, **our God is the true and the living God.** There is no limit to His ability to help, and He cares for us!

JEREMIAH 10:1-5

Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.

Thus says the LORD: "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them.

For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.

They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple.

They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good."

Here, God is talking to His people, Israel. They had taken on the ways of the ungodly nations around them and began to worship their gods. God did not approve of his people acting like the people who don't know Him, nor considering that the non-believer's way of life is all right. And, He *especially* did not want His people worshipping the false gods of the other nations.

The unbelieving nations would worship the sun, moon, and stars in heaven. They expected signs from their false gods in the sky, such as the eclipses of the sun and moon and other things that might happen in the heavens. God did not want His people to be troubled by signs in the heavens or to think of the stars as gods. He wanted them to fear (have deep respect for) the God of heaven; for if they are at peace with Him, the creator of everything, they need not be afraid of anything.

God reasons with His people in verse 3: "For the customs of the peoples are futile..." Futile means empty, lacking practical effect or value. The religious ideas and customs of the non-believers are empty. Their gods are from a tree cut with an ax, then plated with silver and gold to hide the wood. When the images were finished, they were hammered into place with nails so they would not fall over. Though it might be made to stand tall, like a pillar, it was lifeless and could not move. It could not speak, walk, do good or evil; it could not hurt or help *or do anything* but stand there.

Who would want to serve a god you had to make yourself, or one that was not able to stand on its own? Could that god could help you when you were in trouble and needed help. Isn't it wonderful that our God does not need to be held in place, but He holds everything in place?

Let's think about what is the most important thing in our lives. Is it the Lord or something or someone else? If it is something else, we have to ask ourselves, "Will it be a help to me when problems come in my life, when tragedy strikes?" Only God can deliver us and help us. Let Him be the most important person in your life! **Our God is the true and the living God.**

Crazy Kool-Aid

For this activity, you will need two unsweetened packages of any flavor of Kool-Aid. In a pitcher, mix up one package of Kool-Aid *without* using any sugar. In another pitcher mix the Kool-Aid using sugar. Pass out a small cup for Kool-Aid (small 3 oz. cups are available). Pour the unsweetened Kool-Aid for all of the students but don't tell them it is unsweetened. See what the reaction is and act surprised.

Then tell them about the unsweetened Kool-Aid. Go ahead and pour them the regular sweetened Kool-Aid. Use this as an object lesson that worshipping anything other than God will always leave a sour taste in our mouths. We need the Lord for our lives for life to work well for us and seem right, just like we need sugar for Kool-Aid to seem right. There are **NO** substitutes.

JEREMIAH 10:6-11

Inasmuch as there is none like You, O LORD (You are great, and Your name is great in might),

Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due. For among all the wise men of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You.

But they are altogether dull-hearted and foolish; A wooden idol is a worthless doctrine.

Silver is beaten into plates; It is brought from Tarshish, And gold from Uphaz, The work of the craftsman And of the hands of the metalsmith; Blue and purple are their clothing; They are all the work of skillful men.

But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

Thus you shall say to them: "The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens."

There is no one like God, Jeremiah asserts. He is Great and His name is great in might. It would be foolish not to fear (deeply respect) Him. How do idols compare to the true and living God—a great God? They don't! For, idols, the creation of man, are lifeless. Because they are lifeless, they are powerless; we need not fear them. However, the true and living God holds our very life in His hands. What assurance to know our God is all-powerful. He can help and deliver us in time of need; but, if we choose not to follow God, His justice and power are to be feared; for He will judge those who reject the free gift of salvation He provided when He sent His only Son to take the punishment for sin we deserved.

Can God be compared to the wisest of men on the earth? Can man create life from the dust of the ground? Can man set in order the universe? How foolish the thought! Jeremiah asserts again, “There is none like You.” **Our God is the true and the living God.**

In verse 8, we read that those who worship idols are dull-hearted and foolish. How silly to rely on gods that are really nothing—only pieces of wood and stone. No matter how much the wood is covered with silver, gold, and purple raiment (verse 9), it is still the product of men’s hands. No matter how much one may wish an idol actually has power to help, it remains what it is in reality—worthless!

God is really and truly God, Jeremiah proclaims. “True” stands in strong contrast with the “falseness” (the lie) of idols. The “living God” stands in contrast to the “dead” (impotent) gods. And, He is the everlasting King of the whole world whose judgment and wrath are to be feared by those who reject His salvation. We who know Jesus Christ do not fear God’s wrath, for God so loved the world that He gave His only son in order that we might escape His wrath.

God’s people were instructed to speak to the nations around them: “The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens.” We also have been instructed to speak to the nations around us, bringing them the Good News of Jesus Christ and warning them to turn away from the falseness of the world. Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). **Our God is the true and the living God.**

JEREMIAH 10:12-16

He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.

When He utters His voice, There is a multitude of waters in the heavens: "And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, He brings the wind out of His treasures."

Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by an image; For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them.

They are futile, a work of errors; In the time of their punishment they shall perish.

The Portion of Jacob is not like them, For He is the Maker of all things, And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; The LORD of hosts is His name.

By His power and discretion (intelligent design), God created the heavens and the earth. With just the utter of His voice, He controls nature. Every thunderstorm bears witness to His power and government over nature.

In the midst of such incredible marvels of God's power and wisdom, all men seem foolish and ignorant (without any knowledge). All makers of idols are put to shame "because of the image" which they worship for a god, which is false, lifeless, and empty. The idols themselves make a mockery of those who worship them and delude their thinking.

God has something else for the "portion of Jacob," the people of Israel. He does not want them to follow the idolaters and have the same end as them. They are His chosen people, the people that belong to Him. They are His treasures--with whom He

dwells and by whom He is served and honored. He is the “Lord of hosts,” the God whom the hosts of heaven, angels, and stars serve, the Lord and Ruler of the whole world.

Why would anyone pray to anything that cannot hear him or her or answer? Yet, many people do; they do not realize what they are doing. We must tell people about the true and living God, the one who framed the universe and the one who created each and every one of us. God loves us and wants to meet all of our needs. No thing or person can satisfy the emptiness that He alone is meant to fill. God always listens to us when we pray, and more than that, His power to help is limitless. **Our God is the true and the living God.**

Creation Game

For each child, you will need two paper plates, scissors, a ruler, pencils, magazine pictures (especially of nature), glue, paper fasteners (or brads), hole punch, marker or crayon. Cut off the rim from one paper plate. Use the ruler and pencils to divide the inside circle of the plate into six equal pie-shaped wedges. Cut out and glue on magazine pictures onto each pie shape to illustrate each day of creation (the six days of creation). Don't put them on in any particular order. Each wedge should be illustrated as one day of creation. Use the paper fastener to attach the circle with the pictures to the center of the other plate. On the rim of the outside plate, draw an arrow at the top of the plate pointing down towards its center to indicate which picture has been selected.

Ask your children turn to Genesis chapter 1 and read the creation account. Then take turns asking your children what God made on a specific day of creation; the person answering the question should turn the arrow to the right picture on their craft.

God's creation is a demonstration of His power and might. The idols that Israel desired to worship could never create a single thing. This game is a reminder of who our powerful God is, the true and the living God.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to serve the true and the living God and keep their hearts from anything or anyone that interferes. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.