

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **November 20, 2022** Family Theme | **The Promise of Hope**
Study Text | **Jeremiah 31:1-40**

Objective: Family members turn away from all sin and walk with God, thankful for His great mercy.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Jeremiah likely wrote these prophetic words some-time around 600 BC as the Babylonians attacked Judah and deported many Jews back to Babylon. This chapter spoke of how God would restore joy and peace to His people, promising a new covenant with them.

Bible Basics: Memorize Jeremiah 17:7 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Jeremiah 31:1-40

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we experience peace and joy when we turn away from sin and walk closely with God.



Key Truth: God Restores Joy and Peace When His People Repent of Sin (Jeremiah 31:1-22)

God planned to restore peace and joy to His people Israel. He assured them of His faithful, everlasting love (verses 1-3). God would rebuild His people. There would be dancing and celebrating. They would enjoy the fruit of vineyards again, and they would once again worship the Lord in Zion. They would praise God who would bring them back as a loving father restores a wayward son (verses 4-9). All nations and peoples would hear of God's restoration of His people. God would turn their mourning into joy and satisfy them with His goodness (verses 10-14). The punishment God had brought on them would cause their patriarchal ancestors much anguish. Yet there would be restoration, and Israel would return from its exile. God's love endures, and He would remember His wayward people in mercy (verses 15-20). God instructed Israel to mark the way by which they went out, because they would also return that way. Sadly, the *faithless daughter* would be just as slow to believe God's promise of restoration as she was to believe His promise of judgment (verses 21-22).



Key Truth: God Desires to Bless His People as They Walk With Him in the New Covenant He Promised (Jeremiah 31:23-40)

God had benevolent plans for Israel and Judah. Even though the land would be desolate and Jerusalem demolished, new inhabitants would later fill both the land and the city, and thrive there. God had been working against them; now He would work just as hard for them (verses 23-30). God would establish a marvelous new covenant. Israel repeatedly broke the old covenant established under Moses. In the new covenant, God promised to work within the hearts of His people. They would know God and obey from the heart! The old covenant of Moses' time could never bring the hope of salvation. That comes only through the new covenant, sealed with the blood of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, the one for the many (verses 31-34). The rhythm of sun, moon, and stars would wear out long before God's love for Israel came to an end. To make it very clear, God then referred to some of the parts of Jerusalem that would be rebuilt. He even promised to extend the city (verses 38-40).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- How does turning away from sin and walking in right relationship with God help us experience joy and peace?
- What does it mean to repent?
- How is the new covenant that God promised through Jeremiah different from the previous covenant given through Moses?
- What is involved in walking closely with God?
- Is any sin hindering your walk with God? If so, what will you do about that sin?
- What could you do this week to help you walk closely with God in the new covenant Jesus established through His blood?
- **Which of God's promises are giving you hope and peace right now?**
- How did the sins of the people of Judah affect everyone?
- **How can you remember to obey and trust God when those around you are not?**

Everyday Extras

Write bits of bad news and good news on pieces of paper, wad them into a ball, and place them in a bag. (Ideas for bad news: *You will have no allowance this week. Your bedtime is 15 minutes earlier tonight. You cannot wear your favorite shirt until Monday. You cannot sleep with your favorite stuffed animal. No phone privileges for you today, etc.* Good news is easy to think of!) Have your children reach into the bag and draw from the items inside. They must accept the consequences, whether the news is bad or good. This was a random exercise, but God's punishment on the people of Judah was not random. They deserved the bad consequences of their disobedience. However, God also gave them good news—news of hope for the future.

Who can do the best imitation of crying? Have auditions around the dinner table to see who has the most convincing sobs. Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet because he spoke so often of his sorrow about the coming disaster for his nation. In Jeremiah 30–33, he pointed to the certainty of God's promises, His new covenant with Israel that assured them good things were ahead for their nation. Even though there would be weeping, the people of God could count on Him to keep His promises. While you're acting for each other, play a round or two of "Honey, I Love You But I Just Can't Smile."

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Jeremiah told the people to stop worshiping false gods, but they refused. God showed Jeremiah a potter who crushed a clay jar back into a lump of clay. The Israelites were like clay in God's hands, and He told Jeremiah they would have to be punished for their disobedience. **God's Word Is Special** and helps me make right choices.