

Getting Ready for the Story

TRUST IN THE LORD

***This week's story is Jeremiah 17:5-10.
The theme is Rooted.***

WHAT ARE SOME DOORS INTO THIS STORY?

After you read the Bible text for this week's story, try one or more of these ways to enter the story further and prepare yourself to share it with kids.

Listening Tricks

Let's face it—being a Sunday school teacher can be very challenging, especially when kids don't listen or engage. This week's story reminds us that we aren't alone. Even Jeremiah, God's handpicked prophet, had trouble getting people to listen to wisdom from God. Jeremiah brought his concerns to God and found some surprising answers, including a compelling metaphor about a tree and water. Have you tried working with other teachers to learn some tips and tricks to help kids listen and engage? This week's story invites you to approach at least one teacher and risk sharing your teaching challenges.

Potato Roots

Grow a sweet potato at home and observe its roots. Use toothpicks to suspend a sweet potato half in a glass of water, leaving the top third above the water. Roots will grow into the water and new sprouts will grow into the air. If your faith roots are feeling dry and withered, consider ways to get them "watered" so you can continue to grow in faith.

Sunday School Roots at Church

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord. They'll be like a tree planted near water!" Jeremiah reminds us about the ways God has watered our roots across generations. Talk with leaders in the church about the history of your congregation's Sunday school. Recognize that you are part of a historic network, one with deep roots and many sprouts.

WHY DOES THIS STORY OR THEME MATTER TO KIDS?

Read about these ways to view the story and today's theme through a kid lens to help inspire you as you prepare for Sunday school.

Learning Outside (PreK–Grade 2)

Jeremiah sat by a bright blue stream, leaned back against a tree, and dangled his toes in the water. Being outside inspired Jeremiah to discover the perfect metaphor to help others learn about God. Kids love to learn outside too! Find every opportunity you can to get them outside, learning in the fresh air and in God's beautiful, inspiring creation.

Metaphors (Grades 3–6)

Older kids are ready to learn via metaphor, and they will relate to images of trees, roots, and water. They can also be challenged to come up with their own, real-world metaphors for God's work in this world. Jeremiah used his imagination to expand his faith. Older kids will enjoy discovering that faith can be expressed in imaginative ways, not merely in dry rules.

Rooted in Faith (All Kids)

After Jeremiah sat outside to contemplate ways to get people to listen, he came to the realization that "God wants me to tell the people about the full, green tree and the dry, brown shrub." Jeremiah delivered his lifesaving message in a way the people understood, and so have many other teachers since him. We can learn about the people who have rooted us in faith by their teachings.

PRAYER

Take Jeremiah's lead and go to one of your favorite outdoor places to pray and get ready for class. Read this week's story before you go, or take the Bible with you, and listen to what God has to say through the story and through creation.

REMEMBER TO PREP

Read through your leader guide, check your supplies, and make sure you have enough leaflets for the kids in your class.