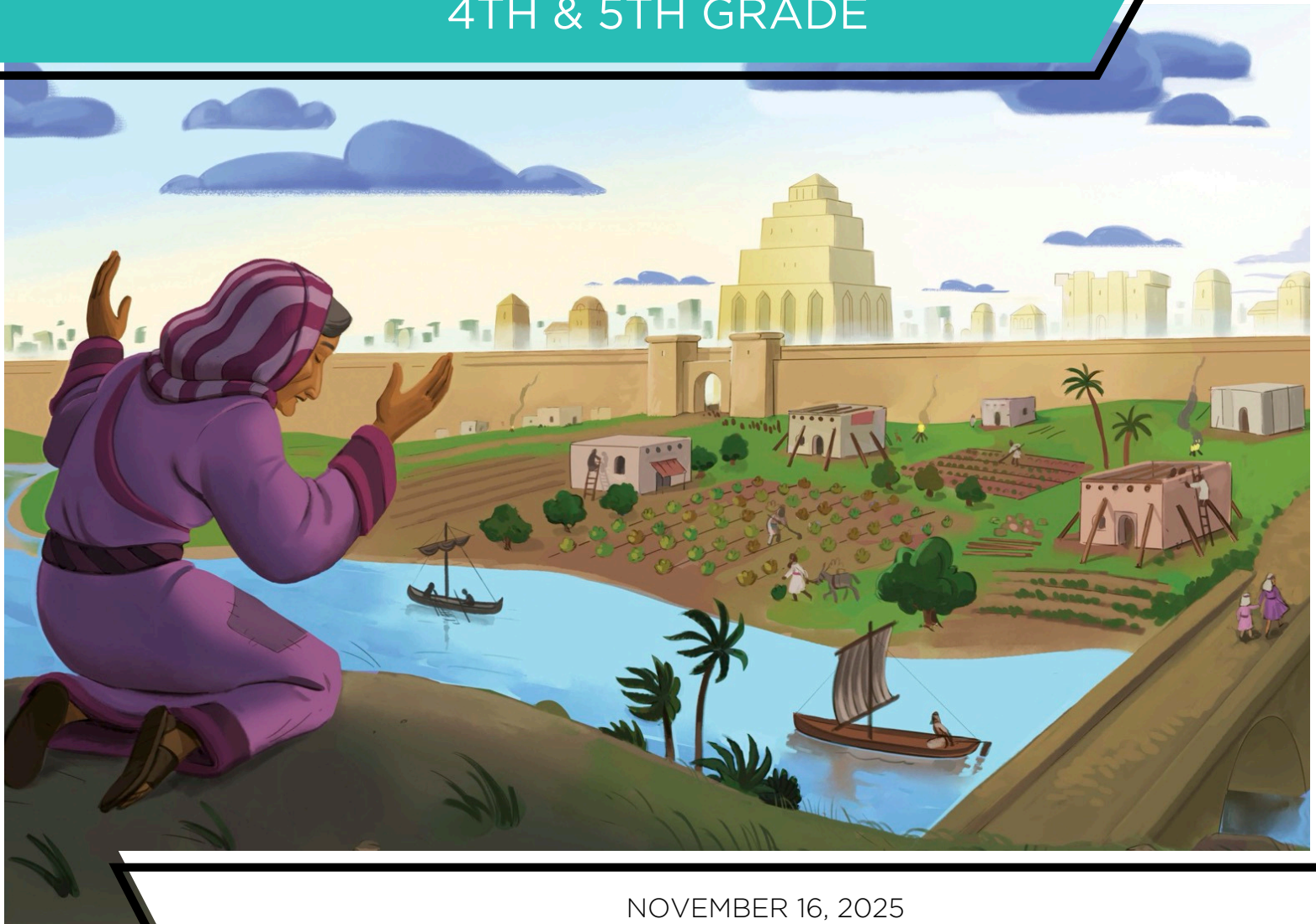


PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



NOVEMBER 16, 2025

GOD PROMISED A NEW COVENANT

JEREMIAH 17; 31

CHRIST CONNECTION

Like God's people, we all have sinful hearts that do not obey God or love Him rightly. Through Jesus' death on the cross, God made a new covenant. Those who trust in Jesus have their sin forgiven and have the law written on their hearts.

LEADER DEVO

The prophet Jeremiah was a priest sent to speak the word of the Lord to His people. Jeremiah taught plainly about sin and how our disobedient hearts cannot be trusted. Jeremiah predicted God's judgment on Judah's sins through the nation of Babylon. Yet, Jeremiah also declared how God would make a new covenant with His people.

The people of Judah faced the same problem we face today: sin. Their failure to abide by and uphold the law was a constant reminder that they were sinful and fell short of God's standards. Jeremiah told the people that those who put their trust in mankind are cursed because men are sinful and imperfect. He also said that people cannot save themselves. But Jeremiah shared good news. He told the people that the person who trusts in the Lord will be strong and healthy, like a tree planted by water (Jeremiah 17:8).

Through Jeremiah, the Lord spoke of His everlasting love toward His people. He shared the promise of gathering His people, watching over them, and turning their mourning into joy. God promised His people a new covenant and eternal forgiveness of sin.

The old covenant required complete obedience to the law; yet no one can be justified by the law (Galatians 2:16). In His grace, God did what we cannot do. He promised a new covenant which would be accomplished by Him. Jesus is the fulfillment of the new covenant; He fulfilled the requirements of the law on our behalf. As Paul wrote, "For what the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering" (Romans 8:3).

Forgiveness that lasts forever only comes through faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:11). As you prepare to teach on God's promise of a new covenant, take time to thank Him for His forgiveness in your life. Remind boys and girls of how God changes believers' hearts to hearts that love and obey Him.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until Large Group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is
over all that he has made.

Psalms 145:9



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

NOV 23

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: BIT BY BIT

Especially for memorizing longer verses or entire passages, don't try to memorize the entire thing at once. Take it bit by bit and break the verse/passage up into smaller chunks. Start with the first five words and focus only on those. Once you have those five words memorized, add another five or so words.

LESSON

Before Babylon came and attacked Judah, God sent a prophet named Jeremiah to speak His words to God's people. Jeremiah said, "The sin of the people of Judah is like words carved into a stone—it can't be simply wiped away." Jeremiah shared more of God's words, saying, "The person who trusts in other people is cursed, because people are sinful and imperfect. People cannot save themselves. The person who trusts in the Lord, however, will be strong and healthy, like a tree planted by water."

Through Jeremiah, God also said, "Our hearts are deceitful, and we cannot understand them. But God knows our hearts, and God is trustworthy. He gives each person what they deserve according to their character."

Even though people have sinful, deceitful hearts, Jeremiah shared how God promised to make a new covenant with His people. Jeremiah said, "Look, the days are coming when I will make a new covenant with my people. It will be different from the old covenant I made with them when I freed them from Egypt. They broke that covenant, but they will not be able to break this one. I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. All my people will know me, from the least to the greatest. I will forgive them and never remember their sin."

CHRIST CONNECTION

Like God's people, we all have sinful hearts that do not obey God or love Him rightly. Through Jesus' death on the cross, God made a new covenant. Those who trust in Jesus have their sin forgiven and have the law written on their hearts.

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

ICEBREAKERS

QUESTION: THANKSGIVING ANIMAL

If turkeys didn't exist, what animal do you think we would use as our thanksgiving mascot/food?

ACTIVITY: HEAD, KNEES, SHOULDER, CUP

Have kids get into pairs and give each pair a plastic cup. The pairs should face each other with the cup on the ground in between them. Leaders will call out either head, shoulder, knee, or cup. Kids must touch that body part or try to grab the cup depending on what the leader calls out. Whoever gets the cup wins that round and finds a new partner. Continue until one person is left standing.

SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) Read Jeremiah 17. What does this chapter tell us about the character of man and the character of God?
- 2) The first verse of chapter 17 gives a vivid image of the nature of man's heart. What do you observe/learn from this imagery?
- 3) Read verses 7-8. This imagery of a tree planted by water appears multiple times in Scripture (see also Numbers 24:6 and Psalm 1:3). What does it mean?
- 4) What does verse 9 mean by, "The heart is deceitful above all things"?
- 5) Read Jeremiah 31. What does this chapter tell us about the character of God?
- 6) In verse 3, what does it mean when God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you."?
- 7) What is the new covenant God is speaking of in verses 31-34? How does this covenant differ from the covenant God made with Israel's fathers?
- 8) How do we become a part of this new covenant today?

PRAYER

Take time to ask your group for any prayer requests or praises they have for this upcoming week. Invite kids to pray for each other and/or pray as a group for all the requests.

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids.

Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, Large Group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!