

CHAPTER 23 Prophets Proclaim God's Everlasting Love

Centering

- ♦ Ask: **What words do you associate with Isaiah?** (prophet, holy, trust, Messiah)
- ♦ Say: **Today you will learn about another prophet, Jeremiah. Words we might associate with him are *suffering* and *new covenant*.**

Sharing PAGE 199

- ♦ Have your child read aloud the chapter title and the first two paragraphs of The Times of Jeremiah on page 199. Ask: **What does it mean to be frustrated?** (to feel discouraged) Talk about times in which you both have felt frustrated. Encourage your child to describe how feeling this way made him or her act.
- ♦ Have your child shake a jar containing water with dirt on the bottom. Say: **The muddy water represents the Israelites' relationship with God during the time of Jeremiah. Just as this water must be purified before we can drink it, the Israelites needed to be purified and made fit to be God's people.**
- ♦ If a map of the Holy Land is available, point out the following places for the stories of Jeremiah: Judah, the southern kingdom where Jeremiah preached; Jerusalem, Judah's capital city; Babylon, the powerful country that was threatening other nations at that time.
- ♦ Have your child read silently the rest of The Times of Jeremiah.

Sharing PAGE 200

- ♦ Have your child read silently the first two paragraphs of Jeremiah's Warnings on page 200. Then hold up the jar of water again. Say: **Although the mud has settled at the bottom, the water still needs to be purified before it is safe to drink. Ask: Why did the Israelites need to be purified during the time of Jeremiah?** (Although they went to the Temple and prayed, they did not treat others as God had commanded.)
- ♦ Have your child read aloud the message Jeremiah preached outside the Temple. Say: **Read it aloud the way you imagine Jeremiah might have preached it.**

- ♦ Have your child read silently The Message Is Rejected. Ask: **What did Jeremiah say would happen if the people did not repent?** (Jerusalem would be destroyed.)
- ♦ Say: **Despite his hardships, Jeremiah faithfully obeyed and listened to God. Because of his faith in God, Jeremiah found the strength to withstand persecution.**
- ♦ Ask: **What was God telling Jeremiah as he watched the potter?** (Jerusalem would be destroyed, but God would make his people better through the experiences of suffering.)
- ♦ Have your child read silently The Fall of Jerusalem. Ask: **What happened to the people when Jerusalem was captured?** (Many were sent into exile.) **Who was left in Jerusalem?** (only the poor)
- ♦ Invite your child to read aloud Jeremiah's message to the exiles at the end of this section. Say: **God realized the exiles needed hopeful news and inspired Jeremiah to write to them.**

Sharing PAGE 201

- ♦ Have your child read aloud The Promise of a New Covenant on page 201 and then write his or her message.
- ♦ Read aloud Jeremiah's Message for Today. Say: **The love of Jesus has given us the New Covenant. Jesus gave an example of how to obey God's commandments perfectly. Evil and suffering have no power over us if we turn to Jesus. When we are one with him, we can behave as children of God.**
- ♦ Have your child read silently the remaining sections of the page. Say: **Life was hard during the Exile. The work was new for the people of Judah, who were city people. However, the greatest hardship was that they did not have their Temple in which to worship.**
- ♦ Have your child read aloud Psalm 137:1–5. Ask: **What causes our own exile? (sin) How do we return to God?** (by being sorry for our sins, by committing to sin no more) Say: **The exiles could not undo the disaster that had sent them to Babylon, but Ezekiel's visions helped them handle the situation.**
- ♦ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Allow time for your child to pray quietly.

Sharing PAGE 202

- ♦ Have your child read aloud More Visions on page 202. Say: **Ezekiel received God's messages mostly through visions. Through these visions, Ezekiel learned that God would continue to care for the people.**
- ♦ Have your child read silently Good from Evil. Ask: **Why do you think Ezekiel is sometimes called the prophet of hope?** (He gave the exiles hope that one day they would return to their land, renewed and strengthened.)

Acting PAGES 203–204

- ♦ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 203 and 204.
- ♦ Say: **We live in the days of the New Covenant. We can be united with God. Jesus has redeemed us. Alone, we can't live as God calls us to live. But when we receive the Eucharist, God shares his divine life with us. Take a moment to tell God now how much you want him to come into your life. [Pause.] Promise to do one thing today that will give God a chance to speak to your heart. [Pause.]**
- ♦ Have your child complete page 9 in his or her Scripture prayer booklet "God's Word Is Love in _____."
- ♦ Say: **Our conscience is like a prophet. It shows us God's ways, but we can ignore it just as the people in Jeremiah's time ignored him. Try to be faithful about examining your conscience each day.**
- ♦ Have your child add the words *Jeremiah*, *Ezekiel*, *Ezra*, and *Nehemiah* to the vocabulary section of his or her journey log.
- ♦ Encourage your child to share the Things to Do at Home section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 205–206**INSPIRE**

- ♦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 205. Say: **This verse is part of Peter’s speech about Jesus Christ.** Ask: **What is he telling us?** (God forgives us when we believe in the Gospel and in Jesus.)

PROCLAIM

- ♦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Before you pray the Act of Contrition, ask yourself honestly how you honor your relationship with God and others in thought, word, and action.** [Pray the Act of Contrition together.]
- ♦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **As Catholics, we realize the fulfillment of God’s love in Jesus Christ.**
- ♦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 206. Say: **Pope Pius X left these words in part of his will: “I was born poor, I lived poor, I will die poor.”**
- ♦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ♦ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ♦ Ask your child to pray for guidance in understanding his or her vocation in life. Say: **Saint Pius X knew that his calling was to encourage others to lead Christian lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to help guide you in finding your vocation.**
- ♦ Encourage your child to be a peacemaker. Say: **If you see a conversation getting tense, try changing its direction to allow people to calm down.** Ask your child to name other ways to ease conflicts.