Exile

“The Message of Jeremiah”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The message of the Prophet Jeremiah

Series Theme Verse: “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” – Jeremiah 29:11

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God used prophets like Jeremiah to speak for God, even when they felt unqualified.

Lesson Passage: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

Materials Needed: Bibles, Construction paper for each student, markers or colors, Series Theme Verse on a poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

* Explain to students that the two kingdoms eventually were conquered and fell to foreign powers. Many of the people were carried off to foreign lands and they were struggling to understand what they should do as captives in another country.
* Knowing their struggle, God uses Jeremiah to guide the exiles and help them understand that the exile would be for their good and not just an evil experience meant to give them pain and suffering.
* Sounds unrealistic that good could come out of being taken from your home and country and everything you know about life being destroyed, but the letter God sends through Jeremiah explains what the people should do while in exile in Babylon.
* Read Jeremiah 29:1 to the students and then, rather than reading the text (Jeremiah 29:4-14) as a group, let the students break down the letter that Jeremiah sends and determine the points of the letter and the overall tone of the letter. Have them write down every aspect of the letter, especially the specific commands like “build houses.”
* When they have finished dissecting the letter (Jeremiah 29:4-14) as individuals, have them pair up and compare notes with someone.

The Story Retold:

* Have the students write out Jeremiah 29:11 on their own piece of construction paper.
* Explain that this passage refers specifically to the exiles, but we can apply the truth to our own lives.
* Have the students read the verse to themselves and then express the verse in their own way on the construction paper. For some this might be a drawing, for some a poem, and for some a song. Possibilities are endless.
* Have each student share with the class their paper after they are finished.

The Story and Me:

* Have the theme verse on a poster board.
* Explain to students that Jeremiah was known as the weeping Prophet because his proclamations were always bad and condemning the kingdom. They also came during a time known as the exile when the kingdom had been destroyed and many had been carried off into exile in a foreign land.
* God uses Jeremiah to remind the people that God is still there and still has plans for God’s people, even in a foreign land.
* This verse rings true in each of our lives today. God has plans for us, we must follow God’s call on our lives.
* Say the verse in groups a couple times.