

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Key Verse:

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD...to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

The Point:

God provides a future full of hope.

Making Connections:

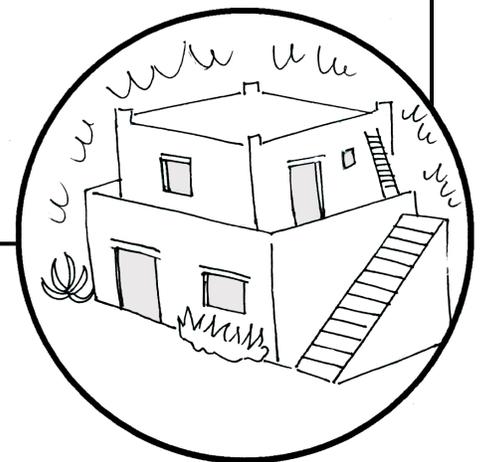
Promises of Hope

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Exile

Spiritual Practice:

Prayer



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

The people have lost their homeland and their temple, and are entering a dark and turbulent time. They feel alone and desperate, but God promises the people that God will never abandon them or leave them hopeless.

Story Summary:

Hope for the Future

The story of God's people is not always an easy one. We read again and again in the Old Testament about God providing and caring for God's people, yet in this story the promises seem to have come to an end. The temple has been destroyed, and God's people have been scattered. They are alone, abandoned, and without their spiritual and cultural center, the temple.

The period of exile continues for 70 years. The people can do nothing to change this, and must wait and trust in God alone for their deliverance. As they wait, God's people are encouraged to make a home where they are, to live and contribute, and be an influence on their communities. In time, they will come to see God's ultimate plan and purpose. But while they wait, God continues to be with them. Even though things seem difficult and hopeless, God is with them. In our own dark and lonely moments, as we wait for God's plan to be revealed, God is with us.

The Point

God provides a future full of hope. There are times when every faithful person feels abandoned by God, as if they have been left alone during a difficult and painful time. Some of us turn away from God

during these times, while others lean more fully into God. While our response to difficulties may vary, God's response is always the same: God waits with us and promises that God will provide a future that is hopeful.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Exile

After the death of King Solomon, Israel was divided into two kingdoms. The northern kingdom was called Israel, and the southern kingdom was called Judah. In 722 BCE, the Assyrians conquered Israel. One hundred years later, the Assyrian capital of Nineveh fell to the Babylonians. To help keep the country safe, the kings of Judah began to pay tribute to Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king. However, two kings of Judah rebelled, and Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem in 586 BCE, destroyed the temple, and sent God's people away. The Babylonian exile lasted for 70 years. It was a desperate time in which God seemed to have abandoned God's people, but God continued to protect and be with the people.

Spiritual Practice: Prayer

Prayer can serve many purposes. We might praise God, seek answers to questions, pray on behalf of others, or even disagree with God. Regardless of the purpose, prayer enhances our relationship with God. Today the students will learn that they can talk with God even when they feel scared and alone.

Jeremiah 29:11

What had the people done wrong?

Use the code to fill in the missing letters.

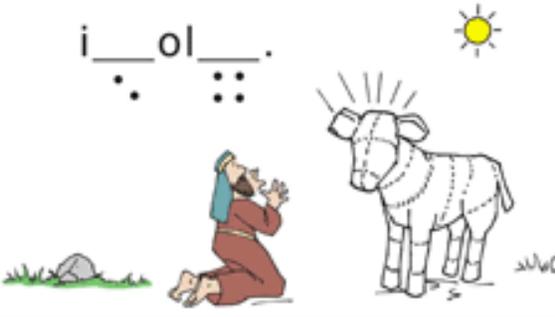
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 V E R A O X I A T A I J E X X N G

FOUND
 SEEK
 FUTURE
 DECLARE

LORD
 LISTEN
 HOPE
 PLANS

HEART
 PRAY
 PROSPER
 JEREMIAH

**For I know
the plans
I have for you.**

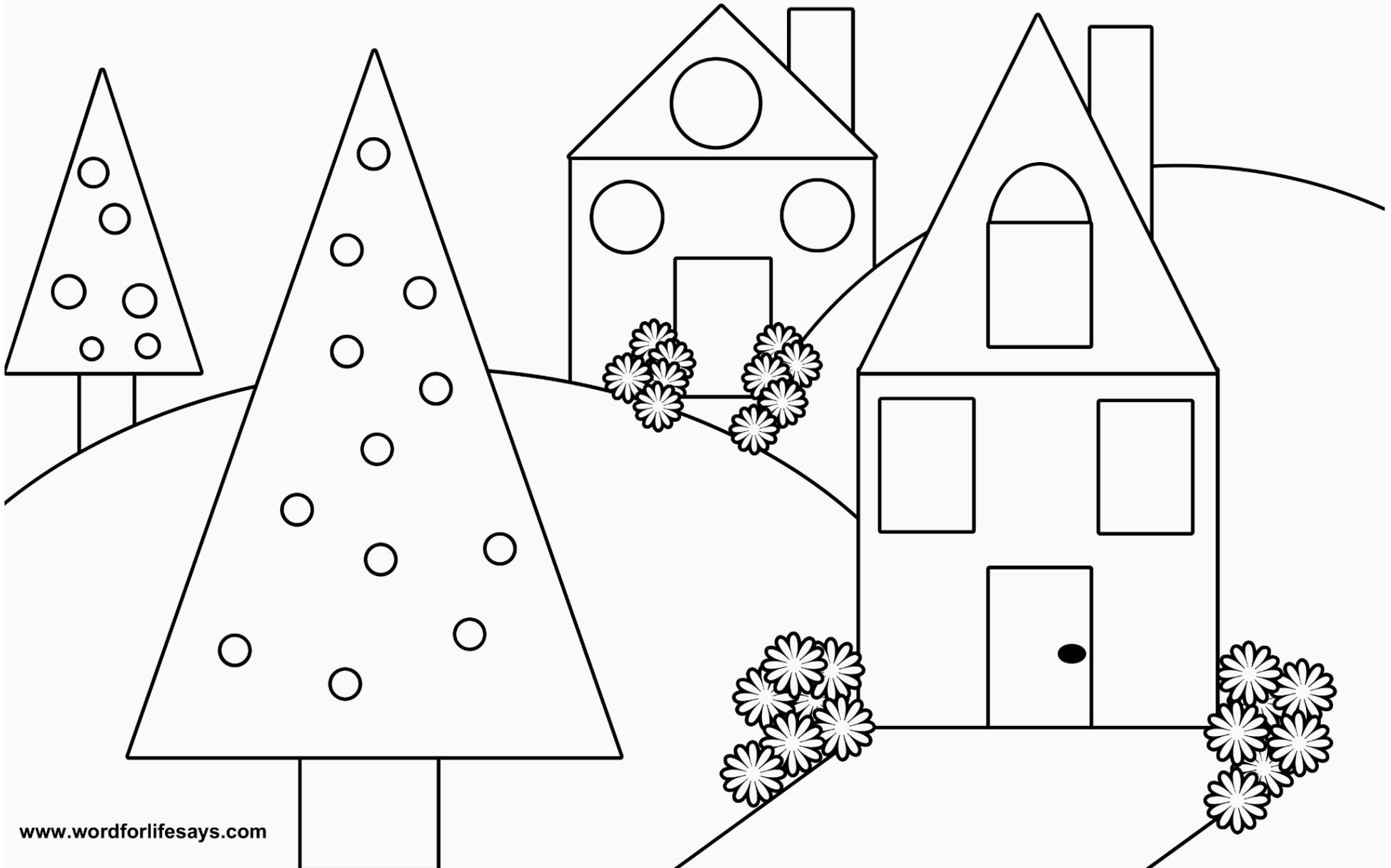
Jeremiah 29:11

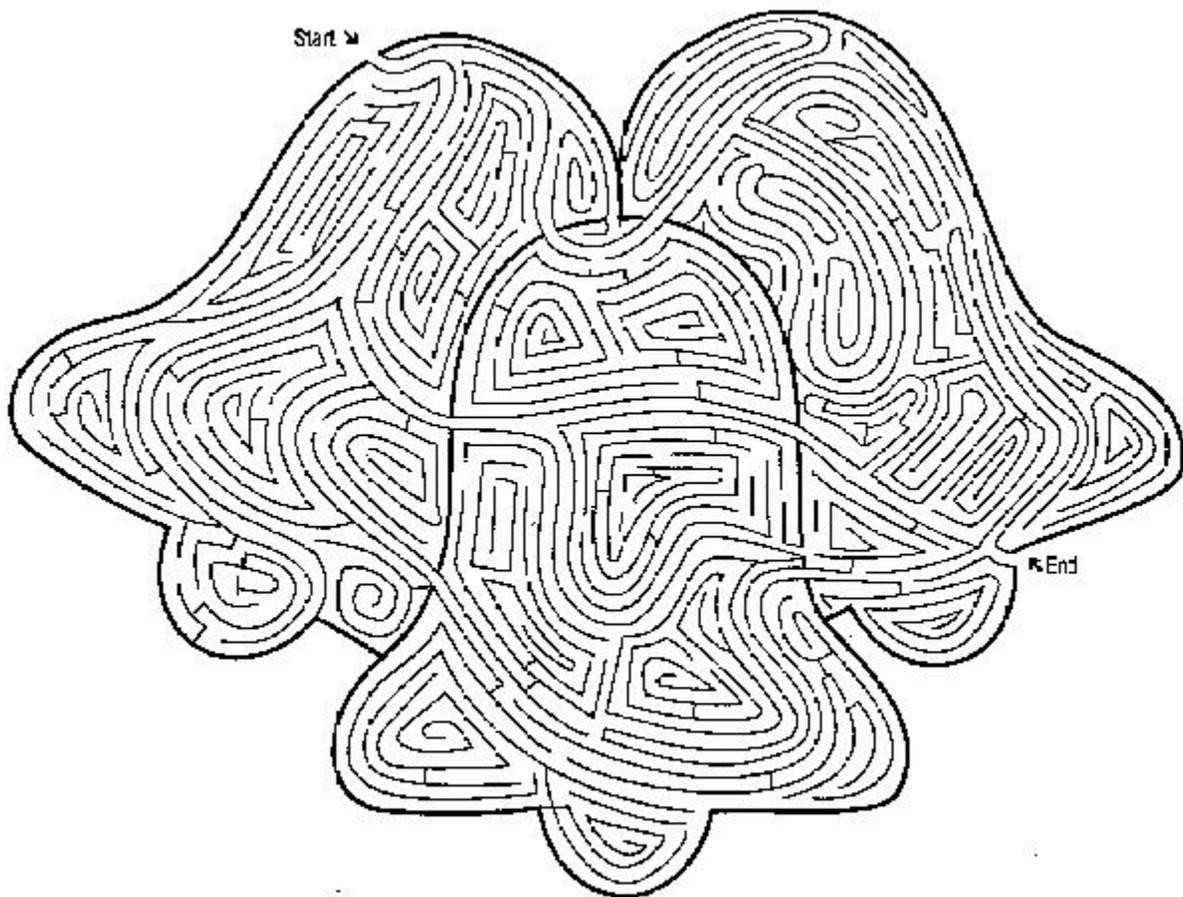


"A New Future"

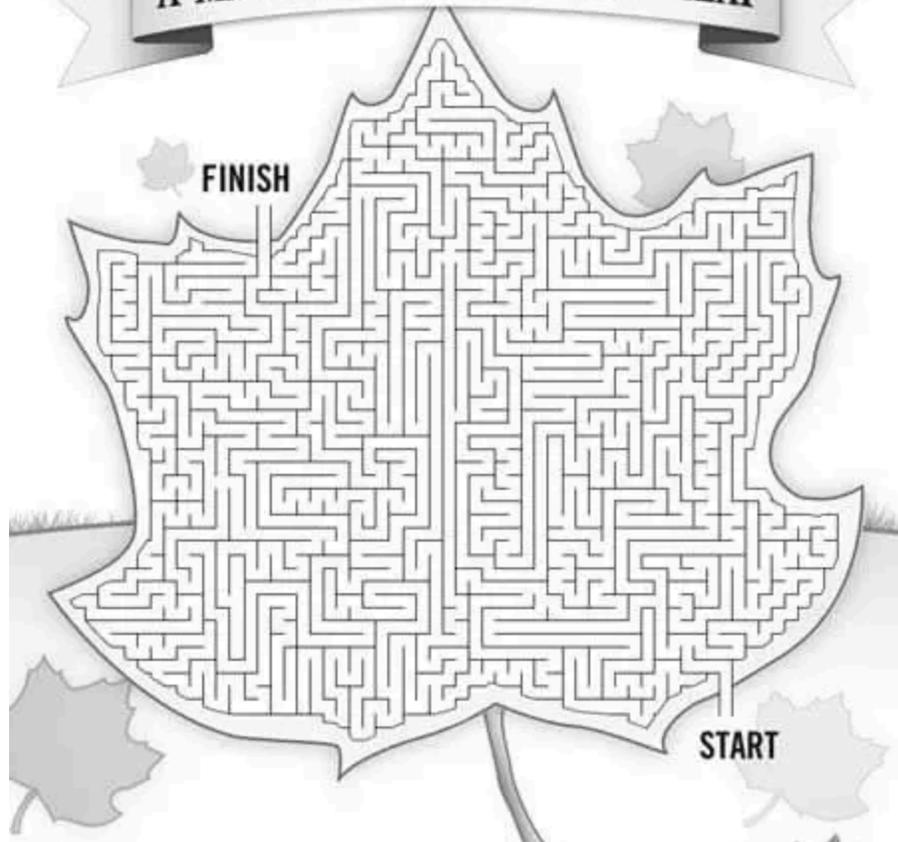
"Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land,"

Jeremiah 32:15





A-MAZE-ING THANKSGIVING LEAF





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2025-2026)

Lesson #4-12
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

LAST WEEK

Through the prophet Isaiah, God promised a light to people in darkness and a future king, a child born for us (Isaiah 9:1-17).

THIS WEEK

Jeremiah tells the Israelites in exile that God will give them a future full of hope (Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14).

STORY SUMMARY

Hope for the Future

God's people have been sent into exile. They feel alone, abandoned, and their temple has been destroyed. Their exile continues for 70 years. As they wait, God's people are encouraged to make a home where they are, to live and contribute, and be an influence on their communities. In time, they will come to see God's plan and purpose. Even though things seem difficult and hopeless, God is with them. In our own dark and lonely moments, as we wait for God's plan to be revealed, God is with us, too.

PRACTICE: PRAYER

In prayer, we might praise God, ask questions, pray for others, or even disagree with God. Regardless of the purpose, prayer enhances our relationship with God. Sit together in a room, but face different directions. Pray silently. Turn around, join hands, and close with a prayer together.

NEXT WEEK

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego remained faithful to God in the face of accusations and a fiery furnace. God was with them in the furnace and saved them (Daniel 3:1, [2-7] 8-30).

THE POINT

God provides a future full of hope.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

The Exile

After the death of King Solomon, Israel was divided into two kingdoms. The northern kingdom was called Israel, and the southern kingdom was called Judah. In 722 BCE, the Assyrians conquered Israel. One hundred years later, the Assyrian capital of Nineveh fell to the Babylonians. To help keep the country safe, the kings of Judah began to pay tribute to Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king. However, two kings of Judah rebelled, and Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem in 586 BCE, destroyed the temple, and sent God's people away. The Babylonian exile lasted for 70 years. It was a desperate time in which God seemed to have abandoned God's people, but God continued to protect and be with the people.

Family Discussions

Use the questions below—or any you have—to discuss this lesson’s Scripture reading with your family.

- † Did you find anything in this reading that was surprising?
- † What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- † What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God’s message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

God promises to fill our future with hope. What three things would you take with you if you had to move to a new land? Why?

Monday—Read Jeremiah 29:15-23

Jeremiah prophesies about exile. As you read this passage together, move to different places in your home.

Tuesday—Read Jeremiah 30:1-11

Jeremiah prophesies about the return from exile. Hold your hands together, crossed at the wrists. What things keep you “bound” and unable to trust God? As you share these things, uncross your wrists.

Wednesday—Read Jeremiah 31:1-14

Jeremiah continues to prophesy about the return from exile. Yay! The exiles have been returned! Celebrate with a mini-parade or a dance party.

Thursday—Read Jeremiah 31:31-40

Jeremiah prophesies about a new covenant. The people broke the promises they had made with God. What promises have you broken? What promises have you kept?

Friday—Read Daniel 1:1-21

Four Jewish friends, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, were brought to King Nebuchadnezzar’s court. When have you been forced into a situation you did not want to be in? How did you handle it?

Saturday—Read Daniel 2:1-6, 24-30, 45b-49

God revealed King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream to Daniel, and he interpreted it. The king gave an impossible task that only God was able to do. Try to do something impossible, like lifting a refrigerator. How would you feel if you were told you had to do it to live?