

The True And Living God

Jeremiah 10:1-16

MEMORY VERSE

JEREMIAH 10:10

“But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Two packages of unsweetened Kool-Aid (any flavor), sugar, water and two pitchers.

Two paper plates for each child, scissors, a ruler, pencils, magazine pictures (especially of nature), glue paper fastener, hole punch, marker or crayon.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Idols Cannot Move

Have everyone in your class try this fun exercise. Have them face a wall and stand arms length from it with their feet close together. They should carefully lean against the wall so that only their forehead is touching it and their body is stiff and straight. Have them cross their arms in front of them. When everyone is in this position tell them that on the count of three to try to stand upright. They must keep their body stiff and their arms crossed. Count to three and let them go.

The children will struggle to stand upright without bending at their waist or using their arms. Allow them a few seconds to try. Begin to go around to students and help them to stand up straight. After you have helped them all to stand straight gather your class in a circle and introduce today's lesson. We are going to learn about idols. Idols in the Bible were made out of wood, stone or metal. They couldn't breathe, move, create or help anyone. The people who made them had to help them, just like your teacher had to help you! Sounds pretty crazy, huh? Well people are still

worshipping other things besides the true and the living God today. We are going to learn about Him and how that He is the one we need to worship, not anything else. **Our God is the true and the living God.**

LESSON TIME!

In our lesson today we will see God's warning against worshipping false gods. We will see that false gods are really nothing, especially as we see the true God, the God we serve. He is the almighty and everlasting God who cares for everyone in this world. It may seem funny to think that people would worship a statue or a piece of wood back in those days; we may even see it as foolish. Yet, we must always make sure that in our heart we are not putting anything or anyone in God's place in our hearts. Nothing or no one should be more important than Him. **Our God is the true and the living God.**

JEREMIAH 10:1-5

Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.

Thus says the LORD: "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them.

For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.

They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple.

They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go

by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good."

Here we see that God is talking to His people, Israel. They had taken on the ways of the ungodly nations around them and they began to worship their gods. God did not approve of his people acting like the people who don't know Him. Nor does He want His people to think that the non-believer's way of life is all right. And He especially doesn't want His people worshipping the same false gods as all the other nations.

The unbelieving nations would worship the sun, moon and stars in heaven. They expected signs from their false gods in the sky, such as the eclipses of the sun and moon, and other things that might happen in the heavens. God did not want His people to be troubled by signs in the heavens, or to think of the stars as gods. He wanted them to fear (have reverence for) the God of heaven, for if they are at peace with Him they need not be afraid. Those without the Lord have no peace, because they do not have a relationship with their creator.

The reason for the warning from God is in verse 3. The religious ideas and customs of the non-believers are empty, which is proved by their gods. The gods are from a tree cut with an ax, then plated with silver and gold to hide the wood. When the images were finished they were hammered into place with nails so they would not fall over. It stands tall, like a pillar, yet it is lifeless and cannot move. It cannot speak, walk, do good or evil; it cannot hurt or help, or do anything but stand there.

Who would want to serve a god that you had to make yourself, or wasn't able to stand on its own? That god could never help you when you were in trouble and needed help. Isn't it wonderful that our God does not have to be held in place, but He holds everything in place? **Our God is the true and the living God.**

We need to receive God's warning. Let's think about what is the most important thing in our lives. Is it the Lord or something else? If it is something else then we have to ask ourselves, "What will stand strong when problems come in my life?" Only God can deliver us and help us. He needs to be the most important person in our life!

Crazy Kool-Aid

For this activity you will need two unsweetened packages of any flavor of Kool-Aid. In a pitcher, mix up one package of Kool-Aid WITHOUT using any sugar. In another pitcher mix the Kool-Aid using sugar. Pass out a small cup for Kool-Aid (small 3 oz. cups are available). Pour the unsweetened Kool-Aid for all of the students but don't tell them it is unsweetened. See what the reaction is and act surprised.

After having some fun with the children, let your secret out that they received unsweetened Kool-Aid. Go ahead and pour them the regular sweetened Kool-Aid. Use this as an object lesson that worshipping anything other than God will always leave a sour taste in anyone's mouth. We need the Lord for our lives to be right just like we need sugar for Kool-Aid to be right. There are NO substitutes.

JEREMIAH 10:6-11

Inasmuch as there is none like You, O LORD (You are great, and Your name is great in might),

Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due. For among all the wise men of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You.

But they are altogether dull-hearted and foolish; A wooden idol is a worthless doctrine.

Silver is beaten into plates; It is brought from Tarshish, And gold from Uphaz, The work of the craftsman And of the hands of the metalsmith; Blue and purple are their clothing; They are all the work of skillful men.

But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

Thus you shall say to them: "The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens."

Now we see the true and living God contrasted, as the only true God and Lord of the world, with the lifeless gods. They do not have to fear the false gods, but it is wise to fear (reverence) the almighty God. Jeremiah declares that there is none like God. No not one. He is almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Great is His name. Everyone must fear God, he says.

There is no one even among the wise men who should not fear God, or who could do anything against God. Nor is there anyone in any nation like God in His might. Not only earthly kings, but also the world's gods are not like the true and the living God. There is no power in any worldly kingdom to be compared to God's power. **Our God is the true and the living God.**

In verse 8 we see how God's wisdom and power are contrasted with the foolishness and emptiness of the false gods. The world, even with all of its wise men, is still foolish because it relies on gods that are really nothing. In the days of Jeremiah, people actually knelt down and prayed to these pieces of wood and stone in order to get

wisdom. That sounds kind of silly doesn't it, trying to get wisdom from wood or stone?

In verse 9 we see that no matter how much the wood is covered with silver, gold, and purple raiment, it is still the product of men's hands. No matter how much you may wish it were a god or had power, by no such process does the wood become a god.

In verse 10 we see God is really and truly God. We see in this verse that God is the true God, "truth" being strongly contrasted with "emptiness," and "living God" with the "dead" gods. He is also the everlasting King of the whole world before whose anger the earth trembles and the people quake with terror. They cannot endure His indignation. For those who reject God there will only be judgment. But God so loved the world that He gave His only son so that we can escape His wrath. When we know Jesus we have no fear of God's wrath.

In Verse 11 we see what the nation of Israel is instructed to say to the nations around them. This verse continues the exhortation not to fear the dead gods of the heathen, but they are to tell unbelievers that their gods will perish from the earth and from under the heavens. We need to take heed to the exhortation also to tell people that Jesus is the true and living God, and is the only one who can give them everlasting life. Many people today worship empty things; we must tell people about the true and living God. He can and will save them if they will ask Him into their hearts.
Our God is the true and the living God.

JEREMIAH 10:12-16

He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.

When He utters His voice, There is a multitude of waters in the heavens: "And He causes the vapors to

ascend from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, He brings the wind out of His treasures."

Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by an image; For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them.

They are futile, a work of errors; In the time of their punishment they shall perish.

The Portion of Jacob is not like them, For He is the Maker of all things, And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; The LORD of hosts is His name.

In this section of scripture we see the almighty power of the living God as shown from His control over nature, the overthrow of the false gods in the time of judgment, and finally the Creator of the universe as set forth as the God of Israel. What a glorious message! The true God is the one who made the earth by His power. **Our God is the true and the living God.**

The stretching out of the heavens over the earth like a tent is a work of intelligent design. Every thunderstorm bears witness to the wise and almighty government of God. The voice or noise, with which God gives the roar or the fullness of waters in the heaven, is the sound of thunder. Lightning with the rain; and thunderstorms are usually accompanied with strong wind to go from His storehouse, where He controls it and sends it to blow over the earth.

In the midst of such incredible marvels of God's power and wisdom, all men seem foolish and ignorant (without any knowledge). All makers of idols are put to shame "because of the image" which they make for a god, and which is but a deception,

for it has no life whatsoever. It is all vanity (emptiness) that these idols made by goldsmiths represent. It clearly is a manifestation of man's foolishness. They are shown as ridiculous when proven that they do nothing. The idols themselves make a mockery of those who worship them and delude their thinking.

God has something else for the "portion of Jacob," that is the people of Israel. He does not want them to follow the idolaters and have the same end as them. They are His chosen people, the people that belong to Him as a peculiar possession. They are His treasures; with whom He dwells and by whom He is served and honored. He is the "Lord of hosts," the God whom the hosts of heaven, angels, and stars serve, the Lord and Ruler of the whole world.

We have seen the warning against worshipping false gods and we saw that they are dead and worthless. Why would anyone pray to anything that cannot hear him or her or answer them? Yet again many people do; some not realizing what they are doing. We must tell people about the true and living God, the one who framed the universe, and the one who created each and every one of us. He is the one who loves us, and wants to meet all of our needs. He always listens to us when we pray, if our hearts are right with Him. Let us remember the exhortation in this passage, to tell others of the wonderful love of the true and living God. **Our God is the true and the living God.**

Creation Game

For each child you will need two paper plates, scissors, a ruler, pencils, magazine pictures (especially of nature), glue, paper fasteners (or brads), hole punch, marker or crayon. Cut off the rim from one paper plate. Use the ruler and pencils to divide the inside circle of the plate into six equal pie-shaped wedges. Cut out and glue on magazine pictures onto each pie shape to illustrate each day of creation (the six days of creation). Don't put them on

in any particular order. Each wedge should be illustrated as one day of creation. Use the paper fastener to attach the circle with the pictures to the center of the other plate. On the rim of the outside plate, draw an arrow at the top of the plate pointing down towards its center. This arrow will indicate which pie shape that is indicated.

Have your children turn to Genesis chapter 1 and read the creation account. Then take turns asking your children what God made on a specific day of creation; the person answering the question should turn the arrow to the right picture on their craft. In the verses we are studying this week we see how that God's creation is a demonstration of His power and might. The idols that Israel desired to worship could never create a single thing. This game helps us to remember who our powerful God is, the true and the living God.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to serve the true and the living God. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.