

Dates: December 5-6, 2020

Bible Passage: The Lord is Our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:5–6)

Supplies: crown (or a hat to pretend it is a crown), large piece of paper (or several sheets together), marker

Welcome:

God gave Jeremiah a prophecy, saying, “The days are coming ... when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior” (Jeremiah 23:5–6).

Jeremiah spoke the words of the prophecy, which foretold the King of God’s choosing in contrast to the kings who had sat unrighteously upon the throne. Through Jeremiah, God reminded His people that He would fulfill His promise to David and bring a King who would rule justly and bring peace. By sending His Son Jesus, God the Father brought from the family line of David a King.

Today we will learn more about Jeremiah but first, let’s talk about this question:

If you met a king, what would be the first thing you would do?



Memory Verse:

Let’s take a look at our memory verse Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”
Zephaniah 3:17

Listen as I read it aloud to you or you can read it along with me. *Read aloud Memory Verse.*

Tech: show *Slide 10* title

The Big God Story:

PREPARE AHEAD

On a large sheet of paper (or several sheets together), draw a long horizontal line through the middle with arrows on both ends to create a timeline. At the top of the paper, write “The Lord Is Our Righteousness.” Make a paper crown (or use a hat and pretend that it is a crown).

I’m excited to learn from The Big God Story with you, but before we do, let’s invite God to teach to us. *Lead kids in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.*

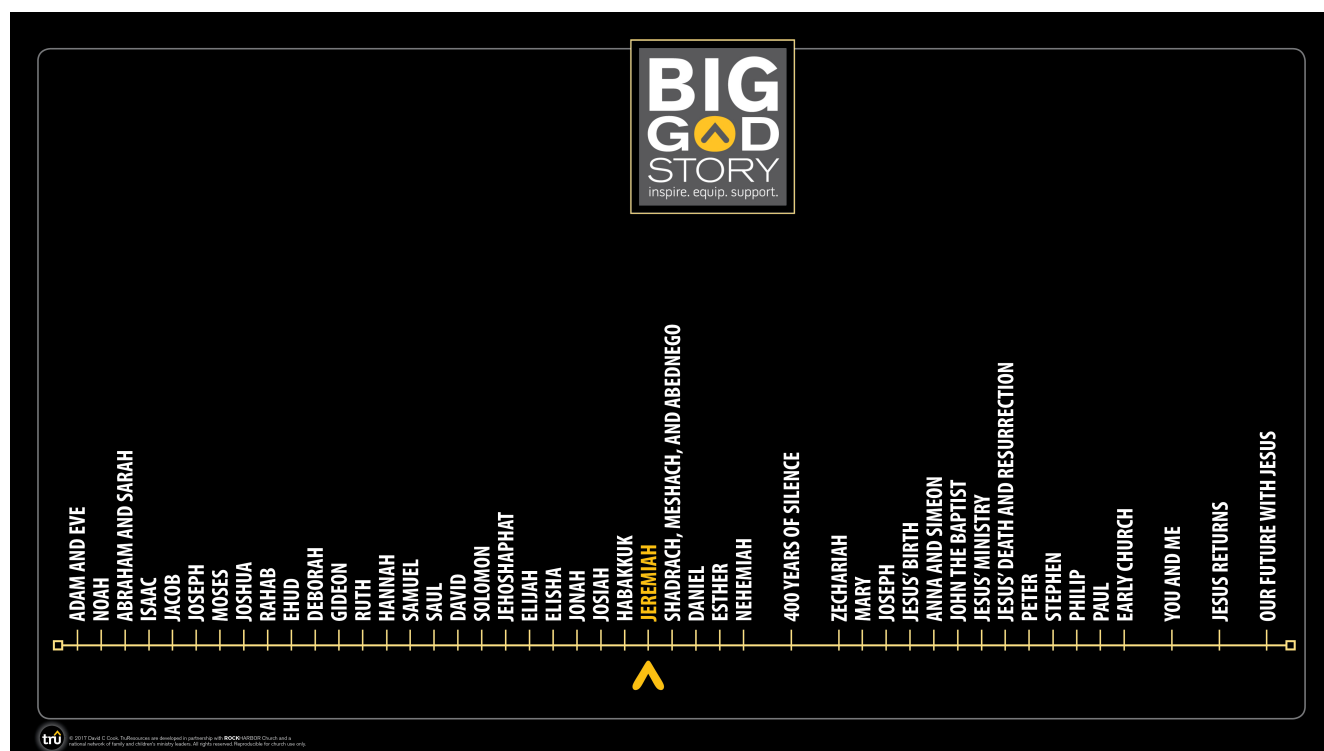
What does the word *righteous* mean? *Invite responses.* *Righteous* means “fair, right, and perfect.” It’s a word that describes someone who is holy and perfect.

Who is the only completely righteous Person to ever live on earth? *Interact with answers.* That’s right, Jesus. He never sinned. Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins and to be our righteous King. The Lord is our righteousness!



I’m going to have you help me with the word *righteous* a lot today. Can you practice saying it with me while making this motion with your hands? *Rub one palm against another as if wiping off something dirty.* Righteous. You try it!

Practice saying the word with the hand motion several times—at a normal speed, then in slow motion, and then five times fast. Great job; I think you’ve got it!



Long ago, God the Father planned for Jesus, His Son, to be our righteous (*say word and make motion*) King.

There were many earthly kings who ruled before Jesus came to earth. *Pull out the crown (or hat) and place it on your head.* Do I look like a king?

What things do kings and queens do for their people? *Encourage responses.*

Kings and queens protect their people from enemies, help solve problems, keep track of the country’s money, and more.

The kings who ruled Israel did these things too. God desired for His kings to lead His people into righteousness. *say, “Righteous” and make motion.* So, God set a plan in motion to do just that!

Pick up a marker and go to the timeline Long before Jesus came to earth, God sent prophets to give messages to His people and to set up kings. God used a prophet named Samuel to tell a young man named David that God had chosen him to be king.

Near the beginning of the timeline, draw a stick figure with a crown and write “King David” above it.

God told King David that He would give him a kingdom that would never end.

Read 2 Samuel 7:16

Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me;
your throne will be established forever.

When God said this, He meant that one day, Israel's true King would be born through David's family line. This King would be very different from every other king.

Does anyone know who this King might be? *Invite answers.* That's right, King Jesus. He's the only holy and righteous (*say the word and make motion*) Person who ever lived on this earth.



David wasn't perfect, but he loved God and followed Him. David made mistakes along the way, and still God used him to faithfully lead His people.

Unfortunately, many other kings of Israel, who ruled after King David, didn't follow God. They disobeyed God's laws, worshipped false gods, and led God's people unfairly.

On the timeline, a little to the right of the King David figure, draw several more stick figures, all with crowns, standing close together. Above their heads, draw a large sad face.

These kings turned God's people away from Him. This was so sad!

So, God spoke to another prophet: Jeremiah.

A little to the right of the kings, draw a stick figure and write "Jeremiah" above his head.

Jeremiah knew that God Himself would be the only One who could bring His people back to Him. God gave Jeremiah the same prophecy that He gave to David. God said that He would bring a king, from David's family line, who would rule God's people with righteousness. *say, "Righteous" and make motion.*

In fact, Jeremiah said that this King's name would be "The LORD Our Righteous Savior." What kind of Savior? *say righteous and make hand motion.*

Draw a speech bubble coming from Jeremiah's mouth

Read Jeremiah 23:5-6

"The days are coming," declares the Lord,
"when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.

In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.
This is the name by which he will be called:
The Lord Our Righteous Savior.

When God's promised King—Jesus—finally came, His people had a hard time recognizing Him. Jesus spent time with the poor, took care of sick people, spent time with sinners, and served all of these people.

Is this something a king would do? *Invite answers.* Jesus was a King of a different kind.

Near the end of the timeline, draw a stick figure and write the name "Jesus" above his head.

In fact, Jesus was so different that He died on a cross for us and rose again.

Draw a cross next to Jesus on the timeline.

Jesus is our King of Kings and "The LORD Our ... Savior. *say righteous and make hand motion*

Next to Jesus, draw an arrow that points to the title at the top of the poster.

The Bible says that when we trust in Jesus, He gives us His righteousness. This means that through Jesus, God did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves: He made us righteous just as He is righteous. *say word and make motion.*

You see, when Jesus died and took all of our sins away, He gave us His righteousness. Now, when God looks at us, He doesn't see our sin ...

point out the gray heart ...

... because Jesus took that away.



All He sees is the righteousness Jesus gave us! ...

Point out the gold heart.

... So now our hearts are like gold, worthy of giving to God.



Share a personal story about how you've seen God at work in your life as "The Lord Our Righteous Savior."

Ponder Point: The Lord is Our Righteousness

Read the Ponder Point aloud together.



Reflect: The Lord is our Righteousness

Encourage your child to open their Bible to the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 17.

Questions for Kids

- What types of things do kings do for their people?
- What kind of king did God desire for His people? Deuteronomy 17:14–20
- When Jesus came to earth, how was He different from other kings? Matthew 21:5
- What does it mean that “Jesus is the King of Kings”? Revelation 17:14
- How did Jesus take away our sins? 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

Engage:

Activity 1: Decorate an Ornament

SUPPLIES: markers, crayons, scissors, “ornament” outline (shown at right)

Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, the Lord gives us His righteousness! In fact, God’s righteousness is available to everyone. God loves you and me. He loves the people who live in your neighborhood. He loves the people in your community.

Give each child an “ornament outline” (or draw one similar to the one shown at the right) and invite them to write words or phrases or draw pictures to represent how God graciously gives us His righteousness.

Lead in a time of prayer and praise God together for making His righteousness available to all of us.

Activity 2 Memory Verse Act it Out

SUPPLIES: white board or piece of paper to write the memory verse on, marker,

This Memory Verse activity will help you learn a verse from the Bible.

Write the memory verse on the board or paper and repeat it after you as you read it aloud a few times so they become familiar with it. Then ask them to help you come up with motions for each phrase or few words. Once you have the motions, practice them all together as they say the verse with you!

Memory Verse:

**“The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”
Zephaniah 3:17**

Bless:

Invite the child to place their hands over their heart. This posture symbolizes how God cleanses our hearts from sin and makes us righteous. Open a Bible and read Titus 3:5a:

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

May you know that Jesus has saved you and washed you clean of all sin. (Child’s name), may you know Jesus as your righteousness.

