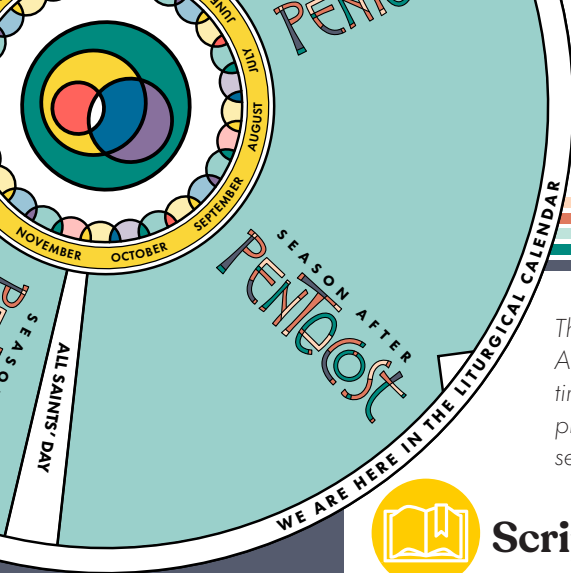


Jeremiah 1:4-10

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday between August 21 and August 27



The Season after Pentecost is the period between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent. This season makes up half of the calendar year, and its liturgical color is green. It is a time to focus on the life and growth of the Church in the world, empowered by the gift of the presence of the Holy Spirit. 12th-century mystic Hildegard von Bingen captured the essence of this season when she wrote, "The Holy Spirit is the greening power of God. Our task is to blossom."



Scripture

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall

speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."



Questions

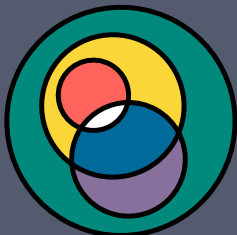
- What does God tell Jeremiah to do?
- What do you notice about how God shows faith in Jeremiah?
- Jeremiah doesn't think he can speak for God because of his age. When was a time you felt you couldn't do something because of your age?
- When Jeremiah feels unable to speak, God reminds him that he's not alone and that God's given him all the tools he needs. Who in your life reminds you that you're not alone and you have what you need to speak up?
- We are in the season after Pentecost, when we focus on how the Holy Spirit enables us to follow God's call. God called Jeremiah to speak to his community about important issues that would affect it. What important issues can you speak to your community about?

Look it Up!



Look up Licypriya Kangujam. Born in 2009 in Manipur, India, this young activist has been advocating for climate justice since she was six years old. She even founded her own organization, 'The Child Movement,' by the age of 10.

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REVOLUTIONS





Activity

In this story, God calls on Jeremiah to be a prophet to the people, but Jeremiah fears he's too young to make an impact. God reassures Jeremiah that he's not alone and his youth does not stop him from being called by God to make a difference. We learn about this throughout the Bible—God uses people who might consider themselves not up to the task because of their social status, disability, age, or other reasons. As a group, brainstorm who some of these other people might be and discuss how God uses them (ex. Moses, David, Abigail, Zacchaeus, the Samaritan, etc.).

We also know Jeremiah is not the only young person who has made a difference in the world. Can your group think of or look up any other young people in history or alive today who are making a difference? They can be people you know or those you've heard about.

Jeremiah's story reminds us that God calls us all to share God's message and help the world in our own ways. Have each person in your group imagine a message they believe God could call on them to share (i.e., love everyone, be kind, have compassion, etc. It's okay if people have the same idea.). How might each member of your group convey their message in one or two sentences?

In Jeremiah's story, God helped him have the courage to share God's message. God reassured him that he was not alone. Have each member of your group practice sharing their message from God. When each person shares, have the rest of the group cheer and clap. Finally, brainstorm ways to share God's message of love with other people in our lives in ways that don't use words.

Activity Adaptation

Like Jeremiah, we are all called to share God's message of love with the world. Sometimes, it's easy to speak up; other times, it might be scary to speak up. Maybe we don't feel big or smart enough, but just like God reminds Jeremiah that he is not alone, we are not alone. God is always with us, encouraging us. And we can help and encourage each other too. Sometimes it helps when other people's voices join ours.

As a group, decide on a message about God's love you want to share with the world. It can be a short phrase or a sentence, but nothing too long. Have each group member practice saying the message by themselves. Say it all together in one voice. Practice a few times and see how loud you can get.

How did it feel to say the message by yourself? How did it feel to say it together as a group?



Micropractice

God said to Jeremiah, "Don't say, 'I am only a boy.'" We must say kind words to ourselves. Write yourself a reminder of who you are. You could write something like, "I am loved." When you see it, speak the words to yourself.



Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here: illstrtdm.in/minirevCPentecost1



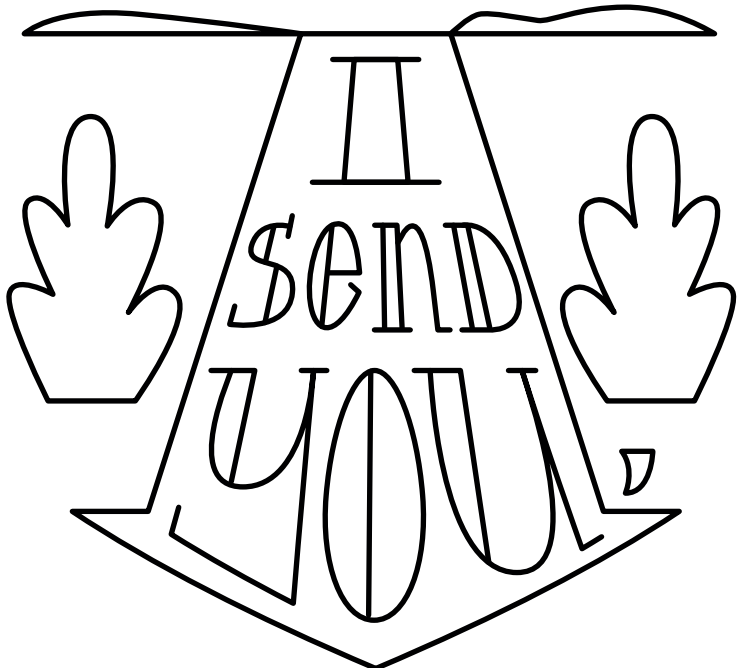
Prayer

Dear God, thank you for showing us your love and teaching us to share your message of love with others. Help us remember that you are always with us and to encourage one another. Amen.

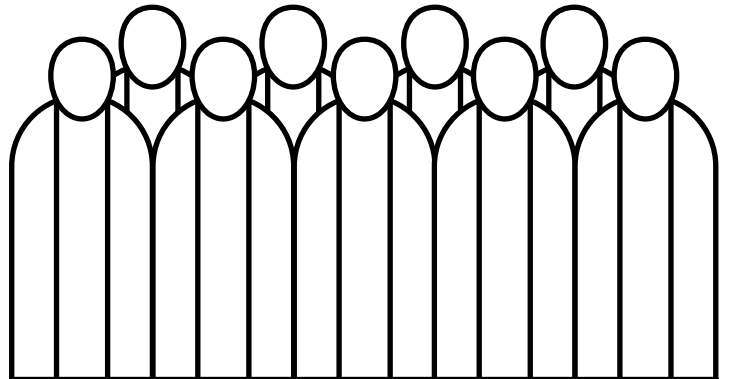
DO NOT SAY,
'I AM ONLY
a BOY';



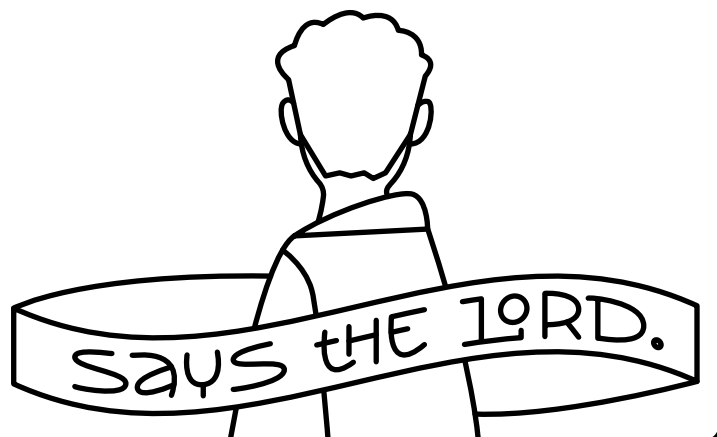
FOR YOU SHALL GO
TO ALL TO WHOM



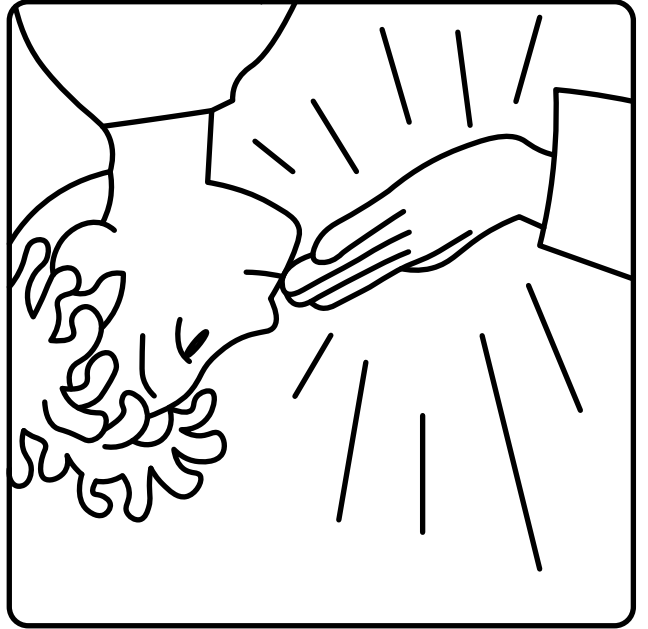
AND YOU SHALL
SPEAK
WHATEVER
I COMMAND YOU.



DO NOT BE AFRAID
of **THEM**,
FOR I AM WITH YOU
to DELIVER YOU,



4. God touched Jeremiah's mouth. "I've put my words in your mouth. Today, I've chosen you to give my message to nations and kingdoms that they will rise and fall, they will build and grow."



3. "Don't say 'I'm only a little boy,' God said to Jeremiah. "You'll go to those I send you. You'll say what I need you to say. Don't be scared. I'll be with you all the way."

1. God told Jeremiah: Before you were growing in your mother, I knew you. And before you were born, I blessed you. I chose you to be a prophet and speak my message to the nations.



2. However, Jeremiah had doubts about God's plan. Jeremiah thought he wasn't old enough to speak God's message. "But God," he said. "I don't know how to speak. I'm only a little boy."