



WEEK 1 Day 1

THE MESSIAH IS PROPHESED

This week's passage is from the Old Testament. Can you discover what it has to do with the life of Jesus? Enjoy God's love for you!

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

¹⁴ "The day will come, says the LORD, when I will do for Israel and Judah all the good things I have promised them.

¹⁵ "In those days and at that time

I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line.

He will do what is just and right throughout the land.

¹⁶ In that day Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem will live in safety.

And this will be its name:

"The LORD Is Our Righteousness."

Day 2

HERE WE GO



JEREMIAH 33:14-16

What's something you had to spend a lot of time preparing for? Let's learn a phrase together. "Prevenient grace" (Pre-VEEN-ee-ent grace). This is a phrase we use when we talk about God preparing a way for us. God was preparing the world for Jesus years and years before Jesus was born. God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah hundreds of years before Mary and Joseph were even around, and the prophet told everyone that a King was coming.

God prepares a way for you, too. God prepared you for a relationship with Him, and He is going before you every day. You'll never go anywhere God hasn't gone, or speak with anyone that God hasn't spoken to. That doesn't mean things will always be easy, but God will always be there. He is preparing the way for you to spread the love and good news of Jesus to the world. How is it comforting to know that God not only goes with you, but goes before you?

HOLY Qs!

- *When good things happen, how do I give God the credit?*
- *What am I thankful for? How can I show how thankful I am this week?*

BLESSING

Go following the way of the Savior, walking in the truth of the King, and living the life of the Friend. May your thoughts, words, and actions reflect the love of Jesus.



Day 3

WHAT'S MY PLAN?

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

If you knew what was going to happen in the future, what would you do differently? In the Bible, God chose certain people to be His messengers. Many times those messengers, called prophets, would have something to tell about the future. Jeremiah was one of those prophets, with one of those messages. God had promised a leader for Israel. We often read this passage during Advent—the season of preparing that leads us to Christmas—because Jesus was the one being promised. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, He was promised. You may be starting to read this book in the weeks before Christmas or you may be starting in another time of year. Whenever it is, look for God's promises to us every day.

Jesus was promised to us out of love. God loved His people enough to know they would need a Savior. We recognize God's love for us by seeing how His amazing plans unfolded. God still loves His people. And God still has plans for us—plans for us to live in a relationship with Jesus. Now, instead of telling us the future through prophets, He is with us every day as we live in that relationship. God's loving plan for you is to know Jesus! How's the plan coming?

HOLY Qs!

- *How can God's love give me confidence today?*
- *Have I been jealous, grumpy, or really hard on anyone? What can I do about it?*

BLESSING

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Day 4



MY PLACE IN HIS KINGDOM

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

Who are Israel and Judah? God's people—the descendants of Abraham—were split into 12 tribes. All the tribes together were called Israel (named after Abraham's grandson)—and one of those tribes was called Judah. Judah is where Bethlehem is, where Jesus was born. When the Bible talks about Israel, it's talking about the people of God. Now, the people of God are called Christians. Abraham may not be your great-great-great-great-great grandfather, but you're still part of God's people!

Being a Christian isn't about where you were born, or who your grandfather is. It's about having a relationship with Jesus. (Turn to page vii to learn more about that.) Some of us get to be raised in homes with other Christians, and we get to learn from our earliest days what a relationship with Jesus is. Others don't learn until later in life. Some just haven't learned it yet. But there's a place for all of us in God's kingdom. How's that feel?

HOLY Qs!

- *Who in my life needs to hear about Jesus? How can they hear it from me?*

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Day 5

WHAT KIND OF HERO?

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

What do you remember about King David's story in the Old Testament? It's pretty awesome. We can't recap the whole thing here, but let's just say he was a conquering hero king in the history of God's people, and his name was about as famous as anyone's could be. To be associated with King David was pretty high praise. So here's this prophecy saying that the one who would save God's people would be from King David's line (line means family). Yes! Finally! A new hero!

Being part of King David's family made Jesus seem pretty legit. People would be more likely to believe in Jesus because of His connections to David. What about you? What made you interested in Jesus in the first place? Is there a certain story you really like? Is there another Christian who got you excited about Him? What is it about Jesus that makes you want to pay attention to and follow Him?

HOLY Qs!

- *Is anything in my life really hard right now? Am I talking to God about it? Who else can I talk to?*

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Day 6



EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

Take a quick look at yesterday's devotion. Remember the hero talk? Hold on, though. From what you know about Jesus, did He show up to be a conquering hero king? Actually, it was a little bit different from what everyone expected. Jesus was going to have a tough time convincing the world He was the Promised One from King David's line, because He wasn't going to be the warrior David was. Jesus would use love and peace, rather than swords and armies. He was definitely a hero, just not the kind of King people were expecting.

All throughout Jesus's ministry, He did things in ways people didn't expect. The more you read this book, and the Scriptures in it, the more familiar you'll get with those stories. If we live our life with Jesus, then we'll be the same way. When people expect us to get mad, we can respond with peace. When people expect us to take revenge, we can be kind instead. What are other ways following Jesus makes us different than people might expect?

HOLY Qs!

- *How does what I learned from Scripture inspire my thoughts and actions?*
- *How have I been trustworthy recently?*

BLESSING

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Day 7

HE'S COMING AGAIN

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

What's your favorite part of preparing for Christmas? We can think about Christmas at any time of year. As we learned in Day 3, the season when we prepare to celebrate Jesus's birth is called Advent. There's actually one other time we use this word. Did you know there's a second advent? It's the time when we're waiting and preparing for Jesus to come again. We're living in that time right now! That doesn't mean we can just sit around and wait for Him to show up, though. Nope. We have a job to do.

So how can you prepare for Jesus to come again? You can start right now. Love Jesus with your whole self. Love the people around you with all your words and actions. Tell people about Jesus's love and your relationship with Him. Show Jesus's love always, even when it's hard. You're helping prepare the world for Jesus to come again.

HOLY Qs!

- *How does my relationship with Jesus impact my daily life in real ways?*
- *God cares about our whole life, not just the spiritual parts. What healthy habits do I need to work on?*

BLESSING

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