



## Lesson Overview

Week of May 16

### 1 Life Need:

Discuss how we often don't listen to God and try to do things on our own.

### 2 Bible Learning:

Study how King Zedekiah refused to listen to God's Word from Jeremiah.

#### Suggested Material:

■ *Adult Teacher's Resource Kit:* Poster and reproducible hand-out—God's Faithful Prophets

### 3 Bible Application:

Explore how to better listen to God.

#### Suggested Material:

■ *Adult Teacher's Resource Kit:* Reproducible handout—How God Speaks to Us

### 4 Life Response:

Have a better life by listening to God at all times.

**Church/Home Theme:**  
Revive Us Again,  
O Lord!

**Lesson Focus:**  
Listen to God! Life  
will go better for  
you.

**Lesson Scripture:**  
Jeremiah 38:14-23

# Jeremiah: The Suffering Preacher of Doom

**Listen to God's Messengers**—King Zedekiah, the ruler over Judah, sought to meet face to face with God's prophet, Jeremiah. This passage records the fourth and last time the two talked together before the Babylonian conquest. The king pleaded for Jeremiah to tell him the truth, so Jeremiah said that God was offering the king one last chance to repent. Jeremiah begged the king to listen to God!

**Behold Your God**—Jeremiah praised the Lord Almighty, the covenant keeper of Israel, and told the king to stop fighting the Babylonians so his life would be spared and the city would not be burned to the ground. These Babylonians were serving God's judgment upon Judah. Fighting their army was equal to fighting God. But Zedekiah was afraid of the people, that they might blame him for the downfall of the city and punish him. He seemed more concerned about his honor than the welfare of the city.

**Listen and Obey**—Jeremiah pleaded with Zedekiah to simply follow the voice of the Lord, but the king refused to listen. Listening is a discipline. It's sometimes hard to do person to person. It's even more complicated when attempting to quiet yourself and pay attention to an invisible God. But committing yourself to listen and obey the Lord results in things in your life going more smoothly. That does not mean no troubles whatsoever, but it does mean hearing a voice delivering the greatest wisdom for your life. Don't make Zedekiah's mistake.

## As Your Students Arrive

Ask your students what "listening devices" they have with them today. For example, they may have a smartphone to hear and answer telephone calls or bells that tell them they have a text message. If they have a Bible, that's a "device" for listening to what God wants to tell them. Everyone has at least two listening devices: their ears. Today's lesson will be about how to listen to God because of the great benefits listening will bring you—and the terrible consequences you might avoid.

**Link to Last Week:** Encourage a few of your students to share from the letters they wrote to God last week.

# 1 Life Need

Discuss how we often don't listen to God and try to do things on our own.

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## Jeremiah: The Suffering Preacher of Doom

I'm serious, man," said Carlos. "What should I do?" Antonne looked warily at his friend. It had been a mistake of monumental proportions. Carlos's employer had deposited someone else's payroll check into his checking account, in addition to his own payroll check!

"Have you ever heard of such a thing? It's crazy, right?" said Carlos. "It has to be a miracle. God wants me to have this money to pay down some of my bills."

"My employer can spare the money. I'm sure they will write another payroll check to the other person," rattled on Carlos. "In the meantime, if I pull the money out and put it in my savings, they can't touch it."

"Don't look at me like that," Carlos continued. "What do you think God wants me to do? I mean, He clearly could be blessing me, right?"

"Do you really want me to tell you?" asked Antonne. "Would you even listen? It seems you are headed down a wrong path already."

"Wrong path?"

"Yes, Carlos, a wrong path," chided Antonne. "This is not a blessing from the Lord. It is a clerical error, and if you keep the money, you will be stealing."

"Trust me, it's not worth trying to keep this money," added Antonne. "It won't be good for you legally, morally, and certainly not spiritually."

1. *What things do we do to try to make life better for ourselves?*
2. *Why is it fruitless to live for ourselves rather than for God?*
3. *Why do we not listen to what God wants us to do?*

LESSON FOCUS: Listen to God! Life will go better for you.

Have the students read the anecdote in the student book, then form groups to answer **Questions 1, 2, and 3.**

For Question 1, talk about things we might do to try to make our lives better: get a higher-paying job, buy new clothes, move to a new city, or go on a diet. None of these are inherently bad, but if we believe that those things, and not God, will make our lives better, we have a problem.

Question 2 reminds us that living a life without God is futile and fruitless. We then live only for the temporary pleasures we can have now and miss a greater plan He may have for our lives.

For Question 3, students may say that God tells us things we don't want to hear, such as "Obey My commandments" or "Stop that life-destroying activity you are doing and follow Me." We often think we know how to live our lives better than He could tell us.

# 2 Bible Learning

Study how King Zedekiah refused to listen to God's Word from Jeremiah.



On the poster handout, read the seventh paragraph. Note again on the poster the painting of

temple and tell him what the Lord's message to the king was.

- Jeremiah feared the king would either kill him if he gave an answer the king did not want to hear, or just ignore the Lord's message as he had in the past.

- Zedekiah assured Jeremiah he would not kill the prophet because of what he said or turn him over to the court officials who wanted to kill him.

Jeremiah weeping.

## KING ZEDEKIAH'S REQUEST

Read Jeremiah 38:14-16 and note these key ideas in the text:

- King Zedekiah of Judea sent for the prophet Jeremiah to come secretly to the

## BIBLE EXTRA

### Jeremiah and His Times

Jeremiah was a member of a priestly family, namely, that of Hilkiah (Jer. 1:1). The prophet's hometown was Anathoth, a city set aside by Joshua for those of Levitical descent.

Jeremiah served the Lord in Jerusalem during the reigns of the last five kings of Judah. He was a confidant of Josiah (639-609 B.C.), Jehoiakim (609-597 B.C.), and Zedekiah (597-586 B.C.).

While Josiah was a godly ruler who initiated broad spiritual reforms in Judah, his son Jehoiakim, his grandson Jehoiachin (who reigned only three months in 609 B.C.), and his other son Zedekiah did not listen to or generally favor Jeremiah. When the Babylonians came in 597 B.C., they took the rebellious Jehoiachin (and the prophet Daniel) as prisoner and put Zedekiah on the throne. Zedekiah also rebelled, and the Babylonians besieged the city again in 588 B.C.

Unlike Elisha or Elijah, Jeremiah did not have the benefit of miracles to validate his message. Instead, God gave the prophet such object lessons as a ruined belt, shattered pottery, and a wooden yoke. Jeremiah effectively used these ordinary objects to communicate an extraordinary oracle of impending judgment.

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## King Zedekiah's Request

*Jeremiah 38:14-16, KJV*

14 Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took Jeremiah the prophet unto him into the third entry that is in the house of the LORD: and the king said unto Jeremiah, I will ask thee a thing; hide nothing from me.

15 Then Jeremiah said unto Zedekiah, If I declare it unto thee, wilt thou not surely put me to death? and if I give thee counsel, wilt thou not hearken unto me?

16 So Zedekiah the king sware secretly unto Jeremiah, saying, As the LORD liveth, that made us this soul, I will not put thee to death, neither will I give thee into the hand of these men that seek thy life.

*Jeremiah 38:14-16, NIV*

<sup>14</sup>Then King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah the prophet and had him brought to the third entrance to the temple of the LORD. "I am going to ask you something," the king said to Jeremiah. "Do not hide anything from me."

<sup>15</sup>Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "If I give you an answer, will you not kill me? Even if I did give you counsel, you would not listen to me."

<sup>16</sup>But King Zedekiah swore this oath secretly to Jeremiah: "As surely as the LORD lives, who has given us breath, I will neither kill you nor hand you over to those who want to kill you."

Jeremiah's previous prophecies about the Babylonians destroying Jerusalem were not popular with King Zedekiah or his court of advisers. Jerusalem had recently fended off a Babylonian invasion with the help of the Egyptian army (Jer. 37:4-10). But the relief was temporary; Jeremiah continued to predict Jerusalem's coming doom and was labeled a traitor (vss. 14-15). The court of advisers then attempted to kill Jeremiah, but he was delivered, thanks to an Ethiopian official named Ebed-Melek (38:1-13).

In our passage, Zedekiah summoned Jeremiah, though not openly because he feared his officials who had attempted to kill Jeremiah. The two met at the "third entrance" (vs. 14) of the temple, that gave the king a secluded meeting place.

Zedekiah said he wanted to ask Jeremiah a question and



Further commentary on this Scripture passage can be found on pp. 1251-1252 in *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary: Old Testament*.

## SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 4

Judah's king sought to converse with God's prophet at a lesser-used side entrance to the temple. Evidently, Zedekiah wanted to keep the exchange concealed. His purpose was to solicit information from Jeremiah (Jer. 38:14).

## SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 5

God's prophet responded to Judah's king with a considerable amount of skepticism (Jer. 38:15). For instance, Jeremiah suspected that he would be

executed if he told Zedekiah the truth. Likewise, if the prophet gave the monarch advice, there was a considerable likelihood he would outright reject it.

## BIBLE EXTRA

### Perilous Times for Judah

After Nebuchadnezzar had led the Babylonians to victory over Egypt in 605 B.C. (2 Kings 24:7; 2 Chron. 36:20), Judah faced perilous times. Because King Jehoiakim had rebelled against Babylon and allied Judah with Egypt, the Babylonian army invaded Judah (2 Kings 24:1-2). It was in this campaign that Daniel and his friends were taken captive and transported to Babylon (Dan. 1:1-2).

Jeremiah continued his forceful prophetic ministry during this time, and he warned the people about the consequences of ignoring God. Jeremiah's confrontation with the priests (Jer. 20:1-3) caused him to be banned from the temple (36:1, 5). The king also became extremely angry with the prophet. Jehoiakim burned a scroll that contained the prophecies of Jeremiah and tried to have him arrested (36:22-26). The scroll Jehoiakim destroyed probably recorded the messages contained in chapters 18-20.

Jeremiah's judgment oracles reveal that God can and will do whatever is in His purpose. For instance, it is His will that certain nations rise to power and that others decline in power. People like to attribute history to the principle of cause and effect. This is, to a certain extent, true. Yet, the ultimate cause is always the will of God, and the final effect is always the outworking of His purpose.

## JEREMIAH PRESENTS TWO OPTIONS

Read Jeremiah 38:17-18 and note the following key ideas:

- Jeremiah told Zedekiah what the king did not want to hear: if he surrendered to the Babylonians, he, the city, and the country would be spared destruction.

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the prophet should not "hide anything" in his reply. In response, Jeremiah bluntly stated that if he told Zedekiah the truth, the king would order the prophet's execution. At the least, should Jeremiah's advice be displeasing, the king would refuse to obey it, as he had before (37:2). Zedekiah countered with a secret "oath" (38:16) to do no such thing.

The king solemnly pledged by name of the living "Lord," who gave life to everyone, that he would not personally execute Jeremiah. Likewise, Zedekiah would not surrender the prophet to the palace officials who wanted to murder him.

**4.** For what purpose did Zedekiah meet Jeremiah at the temple?

**5.** How did Jeremiah respond to Zedekiah?

## Jeremiah Presents Two Options

*Jeremiah 38:17-18, KJV*

17 Then said Jeremiah unto Zedekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; If thou wilt assuredly go forth unto the king of Babylon's princes, then thy soul shall live, and this city shall not be burned with fire; and thou shalt live, and thine house:

18 But if thou wilt not go forth to the king of Babylon's princes, then shall this city be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and thou shalt not escape out of their hand.

*Jeremiah 38:17-18, NIV*

<sup>17</sup>Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "This is what the LORD God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'If you surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, your life will be spared and this city will not be burned down; you and your family will live. <sup>18</sup>But if you will not surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, this city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians and they will burn it down; you yourself will not escape from them.'"

Jeremiah emphasized that he was giving the king a message from the one who put him in power: "the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel" (vs. 17, KJV). In doing so, Jeremiah signaled to Judah's king that the Lord reigned supreme—over

• However, if the king did not surrender, the Babylonians would burn down the city and take Zedekiah prisoner.

### SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 6

The king of Judah learned that if he wanted to spare his life, he had to turn himself in, without any resistance, to officers dispatched by the king of Babylon. In addition, Zedekiah's household would survive. Even Jerusalem would escape being incinerated.

### SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 7

The only viable option for Zedekiah was to surrender voluntarily to Babylon's military commanders. Yet, if Judah's ruler continued to rebel against the Lord, the king's doom was sealed. Judah's invaders would capture Zedekiah, along with overtaking and destroying Jerusalem (Jer. 38:18).

## JEREMIAH FORETELLS A TERRIBLE OUTCOME

Finally, read Jeremiah 38:19-23 and highlight these important ideas:

### BIBLE EXTRA

#### The Weeping Prophet

Jeremiah is known as the "weeping prophet" because of his deep sadness and grief over Judah's refusal to repent, even in the face of certain and imminent destruction. Though Baruch—the prophet's colleague and scribe—penned this longest book of the Bible, the words of the prophecies belong to Jeremiah.

No biblical writer revealed more of his soul than Jeremiah. Through his often brash and pointed complaints to God, we see the exasperation of his heart. God commanded His spokesperson to never marry and have children (Jer. 16:2). He preached for years, only to be rebuked, insulted, and banished by leaders who hated him.

Throughout Jeremiah's ministry, he placed a strong emphasis on individual responsibility. Also, through his words God still calls the hearts of all people to repentance, reconciliation, and restoration.

• Zedekiah believed that if he surrendered, the Babylonians would turn him over to the Jews who had already surrendered, and they would "mistreat" (vs. 19) him.

• However, Jeremiah said that would not happen if he surrendered; rather, things would go well for him.

• If he did not surrender, Jeremiah said the women in the palace, his harem, would mock him when he was captured for believing his advisers and not surrendering.

• Again, Jeremiah solemnly prophesied that the king and his family would not escape and the city would be burned.

Zedekiah and even the enemy forces surrounding Jerusalem. Given that truth, Zedekiah could trust the Lord to bring to pass what He declared through His spokesperson.

God announced through Jeremiah that only two options existed for Zedekiah. On the one hand, if he surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar's forces, Zedekiah and his "family" (NIV) would live, and Jerusalem would remain intact. On the other hand, if Judah's king continued to rebel, God would let the armies of Babylon capture and burn down the city. Also, the invaders would take Zedekiah and his family as prisoners.

**6.** *What did Zedekiah need to do to preserve his life?*

**7.** *What outcome would result if Zedekiah continued to rebel against the Lord?*

## Jeremiah Foretells a Terrible Outcome

*Jeremiah 38:19-23, KJV*

19 And Zedekiah the king said unto Jeremiah, I am afraid of the Jews that are fallen to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into their hand, and they mock me.

20 But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver thee. Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD, which I speak unto thee: so it shall be well unto thee, and thy soul shall live.

21 But if thou refuse to go forth, this is the word that the LORD hath shewed me:

22 And, behold, all the women that are left in the king of Judah's house shall be brought forth to the king of Babylon's princes, and those women shall say, Thy friends have set thee on, and have prevailed against thee: thy feet are

*Jeremiah 38:19-23, NIV*

<sup>19</sup>King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "I am afraid of the Jews who have gone over to the Babylonians, for the Babylonians may hand me over to them and they will mistreat me."

<sup>20</sup>"They will not hand you over," Jeremiah replied. "Obey the LORD by doing what I tell you. Then it will go well with you, and your life will be spared. <sup>21</sup>But if you refuse to surrender, this is what the LORD has revealed to me: <sup>22</sup>All the women left in the palace of the king of Judah will be brought out to the officials of the king of Babylon. Those women will say to you:

## SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 8

Zedekiah was terrified by the prospect of encountering his fellow Jews who had surrendered to the Babylonians. He worried that if he fell into the enemies' hands, they would place him in the custody of his ethnic peers. In turn, the king suspected they would abuse him.

## SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 9

The Lord's prophet repeated the same two options to Judah's king. The most promising choice was for him to preserve his "soul" by hearing God's "voice" (38:20, KJV). The second option was to refuse to surrender and thereby bring a

disastrous verdict upon himself.

## SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 10

Jeremiah foretold that the Babylonians would capture the women in Zedekiah's harem. In turn, they would deride Judah's king for being deluded by his "trusted" (38:22, NIV) advisers. Instead of being his genuine "friends," they would prove to be nothing more than fickle and self-serving court officials.

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sunk in the mire, and they are turned away back.

23 So they shall bring out all thy wives and thy children to the Chaldeans: and thou shalt not escape out of their hand, but shalt be taken by the hand of the king of Babylon: and thou shalt cause this city to be burned with fire.

NIV

"They misled you and overcame you—those trusted friends of yours. Your feet are sunk in the mud; your friends have deserted you."<sup>23</sup> "All your wives and children will be brought out to the Babylonians. You yourself will not escape from their hands but will be captured by the king of Babylon; and this city will be burned down."

Zedekiah not only feared his palace officials, but also the "Jews" (vs. 19) who had already deserted to the enemy. He was alarmed that his captors might deliver him to the defectors and about the horrible ways they might deal with him.

Jeremiah reassured Zedekiah that the Babylonians would not turn him over to his ethnic peers. Instead, his life would be spared (vs. 20). But if Zedekiah defied God's will and did not surrender, he would bring disaster upon himself.

Jeremiah said if the king was captured, the enemy's officers would bring out the women who remained in Zedekiah's royal harem. These captives would taunt and ridicule the king with the truth that his most "trusted" advisers had betrayed, deceived, and "prevailed" (vs. 22, KJV) against him.

Earlier, when Jeremiah's enemies threw him in a cistern, he "sank down into a thick layer of mud" (38:6, NIV). Now, Zedekiah faced the ironic prospect that his own feet would become "sunk in the mud" (vs. 22). Metaphorically, he faced irreversible hardships from believing his deceptive officials and false prophets in his court who then abandoned him.

Further, Jeremiah said the invaders would burn the capital and make Zedekiah and all his household their prisoners.

**8.** What particularly worried Zedekiah?

**9.** What two options did Jeremiah reiterate to Zedekiah?

**10.** What jeer did Jeremiah predict would be made against Zedekiah?

## BIBLE EXTRA

### Babylon and the Chaldeans

Jeremiah 38:17 refers to the ruler of "Babylon" (NIV), while verse 18 adds a reference to the "Chaldeans" (KJV). In Scripture, these two names are used synonymously to denote the region and its inhabitants located in southern Mesopotamia (see Isa. 43:14; Jer. 21:4). By the time Jeremiah lived, these interchangeable terms were applied to the dynasty established by Nabopolassar and which was extended over the entirety of Babylonia by his son, Nebuchadnezzar.

## WINDOW ON THE WORD

### Open Your Ears to God

God invites us to listen to Him so we can hear wonderful things: "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (Jer. 33:3). Psalm 85:8 promises if we "will listen to what God the LORD says" to us, "he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants." Proverbs 16:20 also says, "Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD."

Sadly, we don't often listen to Him, as Isaiah 42:20 says: "You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen."

# 3 Bible Application

Explore how to better listen to God.

Photocopy this page to give instructions to each group. Make copies of the handout from the Resource Kit and give those copies to the group discussing it.



## Handout:

### 'How God Speaks to Us'

Read through the handout, complete the activity individually, then discuss as a group what you learned.

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

### Discussion Group

Read "Listening Is Better for You" in the student book, then discuss **Questions 11, 12, 13, and 14**. Loving your neighbor is a great idea also—if you like your neighbor. We know God is against gossip, but we often find ourselves doing it without even thinking about it. Your group may bring up personal stories about disobedience. Even if obedience is difficult, we can have peace that we did what God wanted us to do. Scriptures such as Jeremiah 33:3 and Proverbs 16:20 remind us how much better our lives will be by following the Lord.

### Quote Discussion

Discuss this quote from British missionary and author Oswald Chambers (1874–1917): "We don't consciously and deliberately disobey God—we simply don't listen to Him. God has given His commands to us, but we pay no attention to them—not because of willful disobedience, but because we do not truly love and respect Him."

### Messages from God—or Not

Discuss what kinds of messages we receive that we can tell are from God—and which are not. Make two lists on a board or sheet of newsprint. For example, God's messages would say such things as "Don't deny your sins," "Forgive that person who hurt you," and "People are more important than things." Messages not from God could include "You have sinned too much for God to forgive you," "It won't do any good to apologize," and "Everyone else is being blessed but you. You're not worth it."

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## Listening Is Better for You

We often complain that we don't know what God wants us to do. Zedekiah knew for sure, yet he did the opposite, even though Jeremiah had laid out the horrible consequences for him and the nation that would come from his disobedience.

We often find ourselves doing something similar. Jesus told us clearly to love our neighbors, pray for those who persecute us, forgive those who hurt us, etc. But do we do that?

Mark Twain famously said, "It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me; it's the parts that I do understand." If we lived the "parts" of Jesus' teaching we understand, life would certainly improve for us. For example, we can ruin our lives by never forgiving a person who has hurt us or wronged us. But forgiveness can relieve our hearts and bring us peace.

We can also suffer when we make lying a part of our lives. One lie births another, and as Jesus said, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much" (Luke 16:10). Truthfulness gains us people's trust and a clear conscience.

Jesus also said that He came to give "life . . . to the full" (John 10:10) to those who follow Him. As our "good shepherd" (vs. 11), we must listen to what He says in order to truly live. The sheep who listen to—and follow—the Shepherd's voice find good pasture that they cannot find on their own.

**11.** *What parts of the Bible that you understand are hardest for you to follow?*

**12.** *Has your disobedience to God ever hurt others in some way? Explain your answer.*

**13.** *How has your life gone better for you when you've listened to God?*

**14.** *What Scriptures tell us that listening to God is best for our lives?*

# 4 Life Response

Have a better life by listening to God at all times.

Ask your students to read “Listen and Live Better” in their student books and make a list. Listening to God and talking with Him is the first thing we need to be doing every day, not the last thing we think of when nothing else “works.” Some things they might list that help them listen to God are specifically asking God to help them listen, talking over concerns with a trusted fellow believer, listening to a Christian radio station, or setting aside a time of quiet personal worship.

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## Listen and Live Better

God wants us to listen to Him, and He blesses those who listen to Him with wisdom, knowledge, and peace. Knowing that you’re following God helps you when you face adversity and brings joy and happiness that is only possible when you obey Him.

► *List here some things that can help you listen to God, especially when you face adversity this week.*

### KEY VERSE

Then Jeremiah said unto Zedekiah, If I declare it unto thee, wilt thou not surely put me to death? and if I give thee counsel, wilt thou not hearken unto me?  
—Jeremiah 38:15, KJV

Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “If I give you an answer, will you not kill me? Even if I did give you counsel, you would not listen to me.”  
—Jeremiah 38:15, NIV

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK’S LESSON Week of May 17 through May 23

(See *The Quiet Hour* and *Cross* devotionals on these passages.)

- Mon.** Deuteronomy 24:14-18—Treat Each Other Fairly.
- Tues.** Jeremiah 31:27-30—Taking Personal Responsibility.
- Wed.** Ezekiel 18:10-13—The Child Who Sins Suffers Punishment.
- Thurs.** Ezekiel 18:14-18—The Righteous Child Is Rewarded.
- Fri.** Ezekiel 18:19-24—All Are Accountable for Their Sins.
- Sat.** Ezekiel 18:25-29—God Is Compassionate and Fair.
- Sun.** Ezekiel 18:1-9, 30-32—Repent and Live Righteous Lives.

Close the class in prayer, thanking God that He wants to communicate with us and is waiting for us to come to Him. Thank Him, too, that He speaks to those who take time to listen, and He listens to those who take time to pray.



As the class members are leaving, hand out copies of this week’s *Power for Living*. Take or mail copies of *Lesson Leaflet* to those who couldn’t be with you today, or send them to those you would like to join your class.

## Before Teaching Next Week’s Lesson

Before next week, read Ezekiel 18:1-9, 30-32. Ask students to think about a time they happily said, “Yes, I did that!” For example, it might be when they made a good grade in school years ago or finished a piece of furniture they built or fixed a car themselves.