**1. Motivate**

What assigned duty have you been given that has required courage and/or stick-to-itive-ness?

* making the arrangements for an event
* choosing furnishings

A video introduction to the Bible study is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/yc6wsb8k> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/2s39a5um>

* rewriting curriculum
* designing an online course
* scheduling volunteers
* being in charge of a new program
* lining up drivers for a class outing
* speaking at a special event
* writing a speech
* writing a dissertation for an advanced degree
* teaching a Bible study

**2. Transition**

In spite of feeling inadequate or fearful …

* Be assured that God will reward your faithful service.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Faithfully Serve

Listen for an assignment.

Jeremiah 36:4-8 (NIV) So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the LORD had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll. 5 Then Jeremiah told Baruch, "I am restricted; I cannot go to the LORD's temple. 6 So you go to the house of the LORD on a day of fasting and read to the people from the scroll the words of the LORD that you wrote as I dictated. Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns. 7 Perhaps they will bring their petition before the LORD, and each will turn from his wicked ways, for the anger and wrath pronounced against this people by the LORD are great." 8 Baruch son of Neriah did everything Jeremiah the prophet told him to do; at the LORD's temple he read the words of the LORD from the scroll.

Along with being his scribe, what did Jeremiah ask of Baruch and why?

* go before the people and read what God had communicated
* he asked Baruch to do it because Jeremiah was “restricted”, could not go to the temple
* Baruch did everything the prophet had specified

What was the message to be delivered and why was it important?

* challenged the people to pray
* exhorted them to repentance, turning away from their wicked ways
* warned them of God’s great anger and wrath

How does a public pronouncement of a written document add weight to a message someone wants to deliver?

* a written document might be set aside, ignored
* public proclamation will probably get their attention more effectively
* everyone is confronted with the message/warning

With what has God tasked us with the Word He has given to us?

* great commission
* go to all people groups
* present the gospel – the message of forgiveness of sins – challenge to place faith in Jesus’ completed work in His death and resurrection
* make disciples
* baptize in Jesus’ name

Baruch did what the prophet told him to do. What does it look like for us to serve God faithfully?

* know God’s Truth, learn it well
* be in daily communication with God – reading His Word, talking to Him in prayer
* involvement in various ministries of the church
* sharing the Gospel with others
* supporting the outreach ministries of the church by giving, praying, going
* taking on responsibility as asked
* supporting one another within the Body of Christ – the Church
* putting to use the Spiritual Gifts God has given
* submitting to God’s Holy Spirit who demonstrates through us the Fruit of the Spirit

How can the church enlist believers to be more involved in the Great Commission?

* disciple new Christians
* challenge believers not to be “couch potato Christians”, rather to be active in Kingdom ministries
* start by giving simple responsibilities, then coach them to take on increasingly responsible tasks
* scripture says to pray that the “Lord of Harvest will send forth laborers”
* support young people who may be considering God’s call to full time ministry
* involve teens in acting as helpers in children’s ministries

3.2 Give Credit where Due

Listen for credit given.

Jeremiah 36:16-18 (NIV) When they heard all these words, they looked at each other in fear and said to Baruch, "We must report all these words to the king." 17 Then they asked Baruch, "Tell us, how did you come to write all this? Did Jeremiah dictate it?" 18 "Yes," Baruch replied, "he dictated all these words to me, and I wrote them in ink on the scroll."

Baruch presented Jeremiah’s warnings and exhortations to the people gathered for a fast day. What was their response?

* looked at each other in fear (awe of God’ power and authority)
* ask Baruch, “we need to tell the king”
	+ the king won’t want to be blindsided with this information
	+ let him know the ongoing challenge … or
	+ he’s going to want to know what Jeremiah is up to
	+ needs to spin this “news”
* where did this message come from?
* Is it yours? Did Jeremiah dictate it?

Why might they have asked Baruch how the scroll came about?

* want to know the authority behind these proclamations of sin and judgment
* “Where did you GET this stuff?”
* is this just a message from a grumpy prophet or is this possibly from Almighty God?

When God’s message is communicated today, what are some of the different responses?

* Jesus loves you, wants to bless you
* problem of your sinful condition”
* wages of sin is (spiritual) death
* Jesus willing to forgive if you confess, repent, receive His promise by faith – Truth for you personally

Baruch gave the credit to Jeremiah. What are some practical ways we can give credit to others?

* be sure to thank others for their help
* if writing a presentation, good idea to include credits for sources - footnotes
* write a thank you note
* send a small gift as an expression of your gratefulness
* be quick to offer help to those who have helped you

In what ways might Baruch's courage and dedication in this passage inspire or challenge contemporary believers in their own roles in communicating important truths or messages?

* realize there may be opposition or non-acceptance to your message.
* at the same time, God’s Truth is significant and powerful
* the Gospel message is more powerful and life changing than is a report on finances or politics
* it is our task primarily to communicate God’s Truth
* it is the role of God’s Holy Spirit to convict/convince the hearers

3.3 God Rewards Service

Listen for discouragement.

Jeremiah 45:1-5 (NIV) This is what Jeremiah the prophet told Baruch son of Neriah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, after Baruch had written on a scroll the words Jeremiah was then dictating: 2 "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to you, Baruch: 3 You said, 'Woe to me! The LORD has added sorrow to my pain; I am worn out with groaning and find no rest.'" 4 [The LORD said,] "Say this to him: 'This is what the LORD says: I will overthrow what I have built and uproot what I have planted, throughout the land. 5 Should you then seek great things for yourself? Seek them not. For I will bring disaster on all people, declares the LORD, but wherever you go I will let you escape with your life.'"

What was going on with Baruch? List the descriptions of his distress.

* Woe is me
* the Lord has added sorrow to my pain (it’s God’s fault)
* I’m worn out with groaning
* I find no rest

What kinds of things make us feel “worn out with groaning” or not be able to find rest?

* financial troubles – too much month left at the end of the bank account
* personal or family illness
* loss of a job
* wayward family members
* personal failure

Why are some people willing to attribute their misfortune to God’s indifference or powerlessness rather than to their own sins?

* easy to blame God for your problems
* that is denying one’s own failures and sin
* such people are rejecting God’s Truth
* they are unwilling to accept the gospel message because they think it will limit their fun
* “I’m mad at God because my car was wrecked!”

Note God’s response.

* Why are you seeking great things for yourself?
* Don’t let that kind of success be your goal.
* You and many others will experience judgment of disaster.
* But whatever happens, I will make a way of escape for you.

How can you experience God’s blessing, even in the midst of difficult times?

* remember that God is in control
* remember that God loves you supremely (He died for you!)
* tell God your true feelings
* praise and worship His greatness, His power, His authority, His love
* tell God you are trusting Him

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Ask God for help.

* Thank God for the privilege of getting to serve Him.
* Ask Him to help you do so with excellence, in a way that brings glory to Him and good to others.

Repeat the message.

* Like Baruch, start writing down the message by journaling your devotions or taking notes on your pastor’s sermon. Then repost the message online.
* Share the link to worship on your social media if possible.
* Text your notes to your family.
* Let’s digitally repeat the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Become a teacher.

* Shadow a teacher and ask to be trained as a substitute Sunday School or small group teacher/facilitator.
* We can multiply by reproducing our leaders.



All right … it’s a challenge. That other class says they can find more words than you do. Humph! I’ll give your class a special hint. The words only go left to right, down, and diagonal. No reverse. The winning class gets excused from the next book report. Don’t tell them, but there’s help available at <https://tinyurl.com/2s39a5um> (along with the Crossword).

Word Search