

## Want to Be A Prophet?

Who is a person in authority you find it hard to obey?

Read Jeremiah 37:1-38:28.

1. Why didn't Zedekiah and his leaders listen to God's messages?
  - A. The messages were pretty negative.
  - B. They knew better than what Jeremiah shared.
  - C. Maybe the message wasn't really from God.
  - D. They would lose power and influence if they followed it.
  - E. Other prophets were giving a different message.
  - F. God's plan just didn't match their plan.
  - G. The message simply wasn't popular.
  - H. Jeremiah's message seemed unlikely; the Babylonians had retreated.
  - I. Other.
2. Why ask for prayer when you don't obey God anyway (vs. 3)?
  - A. It's a good idea to cover your bases.
  - B. God doesn't mind if we disobey.
  - C. Asking for prayer can be just a habit.
  - D. I feel God doesn't listen to me; maybe He will listen to someone else.
  - E. God is supposed to be merciful and powerful.
  - F. I'm too far gone to ask for forgiveness.
  - G. It's the right thing to do.
  - H. I've wondered the same thing.
  - I. Other.
3. Why would Zedekiah believe Jeremiah when the Babylonians had fled?
  - A. He shouldn't have.
  - B. Jeremiah was God's prophet.
  - C. This could really turn things around, and things were looking bad.
  - D. Jeremiah's conviction inspired belief for Zedekiah.
  - E. The Babylonians kept coming back.
  - F. You can't necessarily trust the Egyptians for protection.
  - G. God's message is a good option when there isn't much else.
  - H. Zedekiah just had a feeling that Jeremiah was right.
  - I. Other.
4. How did King Zedekiah relate to Jeremiah?
  - A. The king considered Jeremiah to be a true prophet of God.
  - B. The king didn't know what to do with Jeremiah.
  - C. Jeremiah had given up on the king listening to God's messages.

- D. The king stayed in the court; Jeremiah stayed in prison.
- E. They were best buddies.
- F. The king hoped Jeremiah would give him a good message from God.
- G. Jeremiah hoped the king would obey God.
- H. It was a love/hate relationship, full of promises and threats.
- I. Other.

5. Rank the person/s from this lesson you would trust, from highest (1) to lowest (8).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Zedekiah
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nebuchadnezzar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pharaoh
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah
- \_\_\_\_\_ Zedekiah's advisors and court officials
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ethiopian Ebed-melech
- \_\_\_\_\_ Judeans who had defected to Nebuchadnezzar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Why did people throw Jeremiah in prison and want to kill him?

- A. His persistent messages were so negative.
- B. Jeremiah was misunderstood.
- C. The king and his advisors lived in fear.
- D. The leaders of the country needed a scapegoat.
- E. Sometimes people are just hypersensitive.
- F. Jeremiah was a spy for the Babylonians.
- G. It's common for people to resist God's messages and messengers.
- H. Other.

7. How is your life during the pandemic similar to Jeremiah's life? How is it different?

8. What are God's messages to you, and what types of suffering are you willing to put up with in order to follow them?