


Overview

In Chapter 15 the students learned about the division of Solomon’s kingdom and the role of the prophets. In this chapter they will learn how the prophets continued to call the people back to worshipping the one true God.

Doctrinal Content		For Adult Reading and Reflection <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>
The students will learn:		Paragraph
• Judah struggled to remain faithful to God.		
• Prophets brought Judah hope and comfort.	716	
• The kingdom of Judah came to an end.	710	
• Prophets called the people to faithfulness.	873	



vocation
blasphemy

Catechist Background

Name one of your heroes or heroines. What is it about this person that inspires you?

We need our heroes and heroines. They provide us role models upon which we can pattern our lives. Our heroes speak to something unique in us and call us to be better persons. In some ways the Bible is a book of heroes and heroines. It is filled with individuals like Esther, Abraham, Peter, Paul, Mary Magdalene, and a host of others who often exemplify the best values of our religion. One easily overlooked hero is Jeremiah. Of all the prophets, Jeremiah leaps off the pages of Scripture as a flesh and blood person, buffeted by strong emotions and capable of arguing with God.

Jeremiah felt deeply about many things. He expressed immense joy about his exiled compatriots who escaped the Babylonian sword. Like Jesus, he wept over Jerusalem and said so in words of undeniable grief (8:18–23). His anger is palpable as he speaks of the Temple as “a den of thieves” (7:11). The words of Jeremiah articulate despair and hope, doubt and determination, resentment and forgive-

Go to www.webelieveweb.com, Catechist/Teacher, We Believe Correlations for this chapter’s correlation to:

- Six Tasks of Catechesis
- Catholic Social Teaching.

ness. Jeremiah is not a plastic saint, devoid of feeling. Rather he is a hero who finds prophecy and God by feeling his emotions rather than skirting them.

Jeremiah is capable of lashing out at God. He calls God untrustworthy (15:18); but nonetheless he continues to trust and obey God. Feeling the agony of his people in the southern kingdom of Judah torn apart by exile and demoralization, he struggles to understand God’s reasons. And in so doing, he finds hope. This he passes on in the prophecies of a new covenant. “I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; . . . All, from least to greatest, shall know me . . . for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.” (Jeremiah 31:33–34)

How does the example of Jeremiah speak to you?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Steps

Presentation

Materials

1 WE GATHER

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Prayer



Focus on Life

- Praise God for his faithfulness.
- Praise God in song.



- Discuss people who have made a difference.

For the prayer space: Bible opened to Psalm 117; map of ancient Israel, torn in half



"Though the Mountains May Fall," Dan Schutte, #19, Grade 6 CD

2 WE BELIEVE

pages 184–185

Judah struggled to remain faithful to God.

- Present Judah's struggles.
- Discuss world leaders and pray for them.

pages 186–187

Prophets brought Judah hope and comfort.

- Read about Isaiah, Hezekiah, and Micah.
- Discuss today's issues and concerns.

pages 188–189

The kingdom of Judah came to an end.

- Present the destruction of Judah.
- Compose a prophetic message.

pages 190–191

Prophets called the people to faithfulness.

- Read about the prophets calling the people to faithfulness.
- Work on Reproducible Master 16.
- Read about and discuss vocations in *As Catholics*.

- copies of Reproducible Master 16

3 WE RESPOND

page 191



- Discuss and act out working for justice.

pages 192–193
Project Disciple

- Complete the **Project Disciple** activities.
- Explain the *Take Home* activity.
- Discuss/send home **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master for this chapter.

- copies of **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master, Chapter 16 (back of book)

page 194
Chapter 16 Test

- Complete **Chapter 16 Test**.
- Work on *Alternative Assessment* activity.

- optional: copies of Scripture reproducible master, *What's the Word?*, Chapter 16 (back of book)