

In 1455, 28 years before Martin Luther was born, Jacques Lefèvre was born in France. Lefèvre became a professor at the University of Paris and hoping to write a book on the history of the saints and martyr in the church. In the process of researching he started reading the Bible and found Jesus.

One of Lefèvre's students was William Farel; not unlike Paul of the New Testament when he met Jesus he turned all his energy to spreading the Word. The Bishop of Meaux soon joined them and worked unceasingly to bring reform to the churches in his area; replacing corrupt priests with men who loved God. When Lefèvre translated the New Testament into French, the bishop spared no expense to have it printed and distributed to the people. Instead of meeting in the wine shops in the evenings the people met in homes to discuss the Bible truths, pray and praise God.

Even the sister of the king believed and for a time things went well, but then persecution started. Many were given the choice between burning to death at the stake or recanting – saying they were wrong. At this point the bishop of Meaux' faith failed and he recanted but despite this, the people in his churches stood firm in their new faith and many became martyrs.

Louis de Berquin was a knight of the king and like William Farel, a zealous supporter of the Pope until he found the truth for himself in the Bible. He was a man of much influence in the court and with the king and became a key person in the spread of the Reformation. Time after time he was charged with heresy and thrown in prison and time after time he was released by the king who couldn't make up his mind whether to support Rome or the Reformation. Then one day, someone vandalised a statue of the Virgin Mary; the king withdrew from Paris and the Monks took advantage of his absence to arrest Berquin, sentence him to death and execute him all in one day. As Berquin marched to the place of his death, the people of the city were amazed by his appearance – his rich cloths and the look of peace and joy on his face – as if he was in a temple.

During this time Lefèvre, Farel and many others left the city seeking safer places and at the same time, spreading the truth of the Gospel even further.

The Exile

Sabbath

The Prophet Jeremiah received his first message from God while Josiah was still the king and continued receiving messages even after Judah was totally destroyed. God used Jeremiah to warn the people of Judah of the judgement that would soon happen – just as he had through other prophets. Time and again God reminded them of all He had done and asked why they were not faithful, why they kept turning to other Gods. Time and again He called them to return to Him, to throw out their idols. Many times Jeremiah warned them of the army that would soon come from the North to destroy them.

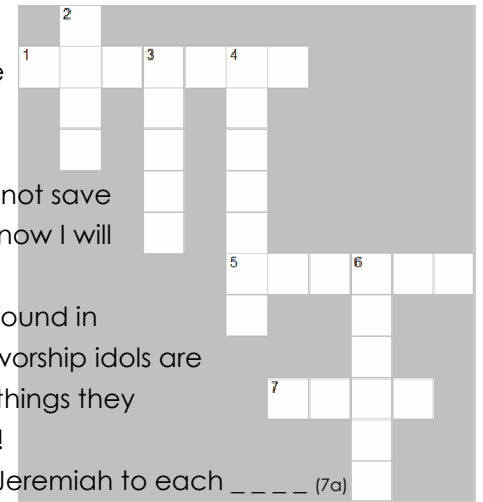
- In Jeremiah 7:2 God told

Jeremiah to go to the entrance
of the _____ (3d) _____ (5a)
and give a message to the
people saying, "The temple will not save
you – but turn to Me and even now I will
let you stay in this land!"

- The key to another message is found in
Jeremiah 10:8^{NLT}, "People who worship idols are
stupid and _____ (1a). The things they
worship are made of _____ (2d)!"

- In Jeremiah 17:19-22 God sent Jeremiah to each _____ (7a)
in the city to tell them to stop working on _____ (4d) OR
else the gates and palaces of Jerusalem would burn.

- In Jeremiah 18:1-4 God sent Jeremiah to the _____ (6d).
Jeremiah watched as he made a pot or jar, but it did not work out
so he squashed it back to a lump of clay to start again. God said,
"If I say a nation will be destroyed but it repents – I will save it, but if I
say I will build up a nation and they turn to evil, I will not bless them
even though I said I would."



Sunday

God told Jeremiah to do many strange things to try and get the people to listen. Like the time he made an ox yoke and carried it around fastened to his neck. Then he sent messages to the kings of Judah, Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre and Sidon saying, "If you want to live, submit to Babylon - don't listen to the false prophets; Babylon will defeat you! Surrender and live and Jerusalem will be saved!

When Jeremiah tried to leave Jerusalem to attend to some business he was arrested and thrown in a dungeon - accused of trying to join the Babylonians. Several days later King Zedekiah had him moved and kept as a prisoner in the palace courtyard. But a group of officials insisted Jeremiah's message must be stopped so they put him in an empty but muddy well in the prison courtyard. Ebed-melech an Ethiopian official rushed to the king and got permission to save Jeremiah and pulled him out, returning him to the palace courtyard and where he stayed until the Babylonians broke down the walls of Jerusalem.

Instead of surrendering, King Zedekiah and his officials tried to escape and were captured. Most of the royal family were killed then Zedekiah was blinded and taken prisoner. Much of Jerusalem burned including the palace; only a few of the poorest people were left, everyone else was killed or taken captive. But King Nebuchadnezzar had given strict instruction that Jeremiah was to be freed; he could choose to stay in Jerusalem or live in comfort in Babylon. Jeremiah chose to stay.

Now a group of guerrilla fighters had been hiding in the hills and when they heard that King Nebuchadnezzar had appointed Gedaliah as governor they approached him and he told them to live in peace, only paying taxes to Babylon. But a spy from Ammon killed Gedaliah, taking many people captive. The guerrilla's recovered the captives then prepared to flee to Egypt, fearing what Babylon would do. Jeremiah told them God wanted them to stay even though He knew they would not. He warned that in Egypt they would forget God, suffer famine and war and none would return alive. But the guerrilla's would not listen and took all the remaining people including Jeremiah to Egypt.

Friday

As the world comes towards the end, more and more Christians will be persecuted for their faith. Reading and memorising Bible verses is a great way to help you stay close to God and give you the strength to do what is right even when our friends are doing something else.

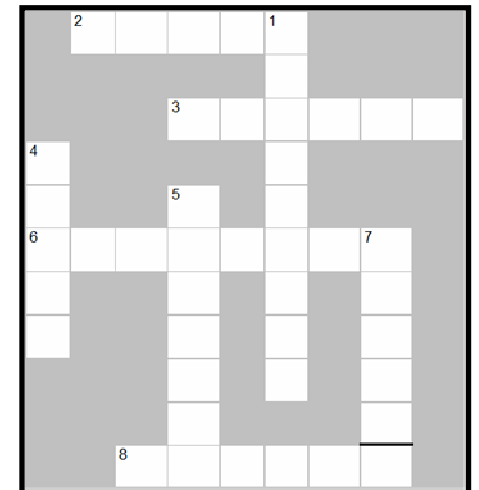
Philippians 4:6-7_{NLT}, "Don't worry about _ _ _ _ _ (6a); instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's _ _ _ _ _ (4d), which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace guards your _ _ _ _ _ (8a) and _ _ _ _ _ (2a) as you live in Christ Jesus."

Little things or big things we don't have to worry about them - we just tell God and then we need to take some time to think about all the other blessing that God has given us.

1 Peter 4:12-13_{NLT}, "Dear friends, don't be _ _ _ _ _ (1d) at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something _ _ _ _ _ (5d) were happening to you. Instead be very glad - for these trials make you partners with _ _ _ _ _ (3a) in His suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing His _ _ _ _ _ (7d) when it is revealed to all the world."

When people decide to follow Jesus, Satan is not happy. He will do whatever he can to cause problems like, making problems and misunderstandings with friends and family, making things break or get lost, causing sickness or late nights and anything else he can think of. Peter says that when these things happen we are blessed because these things and far worse happened to Jesus.

Remember that Jesus knows what we are feeling and He is there to comfort us and help us. Just ask Him and remember to thank Him for everything.



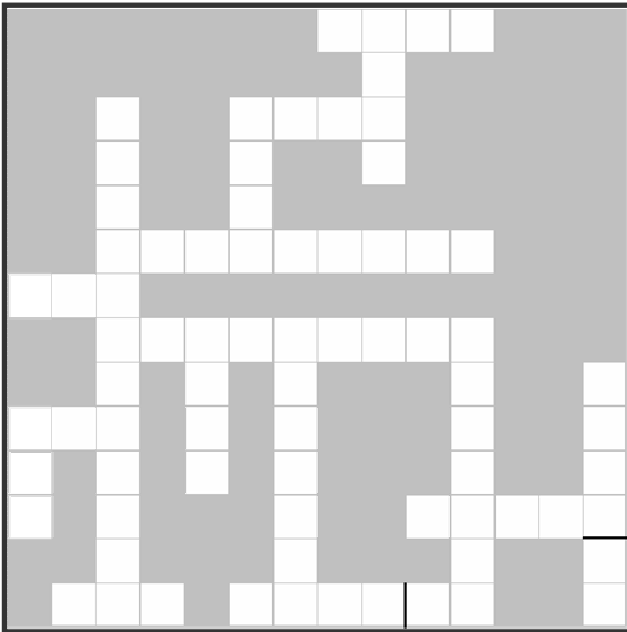
Thursday

It would have been easy for Jeremiah to just give up and stop preaching, prophesying and doing the strange things God asked him to do. It would have been easy for Daniel to do what he was told and eat the king's food. It is easy to copy everyone else but that doesn't mean it is the best choice.

The book Great Stories for Kids volume 3 (©1999, Jerry D. Thomas, Pacific Press Publishing Association) has some good points to help you make good choices when your friends are thinking of making bad ones.

1. **Ask questions** – don't go anywhere or do anything until you know why or what the plan is.
2. **Name the trouble** – say what is wrong with what they are planning.
3. **Name the consequences** – tell them how much trouble you would all be in.
4. **Suggest something else**
5. **Move it. Sell it. Leave the door open.** – Decide that you will do something else even if they don't. Invite them along and then, whether or not they come, go and do what you suggested.

Practice using these steps at home so that when you need them you will remember them.



Monday

Daniel and his friends were among the young men taken captive to Babylon when King Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem the first time. The king ordered that the strongest, healthiest, and most good-looking young men, be chosen to serve in the royal palace. They would have the best training for three years, and the best food from the king's own kitchens!

Daniel and three of his friends were chosen. But when they saw the type of food that the king ate, they were concerned. At home they had eaten vegetables and fruit with water to drink; but the king was served lots of fatty meats that had been offered to idols, and wine to drink. Daniel went to see the chief of staff to ask for different food. Now the chief of staff liked Daniel. But he said, "I am afraid. If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, the king will have me killed."

Daniel said "Please let us try a diet of vegetables and water for ten days and then see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's food."

The chief of staff agreed to test them for ten days.

At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and happier than the young men who had been eating the king's food! So after that they were allowed to eat vegetables instead of the food and wine from the king's kitchens.

When the training period of three years was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel and his three friends. So they worked for the palace and whenever the king asked them about anything, he found them ten times wiser than anyone else in his entire kingdom!



Tuesday

Many of Jeremiah's message fall into the same categories. Read the following verses and write a number next to them to show which category you think they fit.

1. Repent and turn to God
2. Disaster is coming
3. Surrender to Babylon

Jeremiah 4:5-6

Jeremiah 6:1

Jeremiah 7:1-7

Jeremiah 21:8-9

Jeremiah 22:2-5

Jeremiah 27:8

Jeremiah 38:17

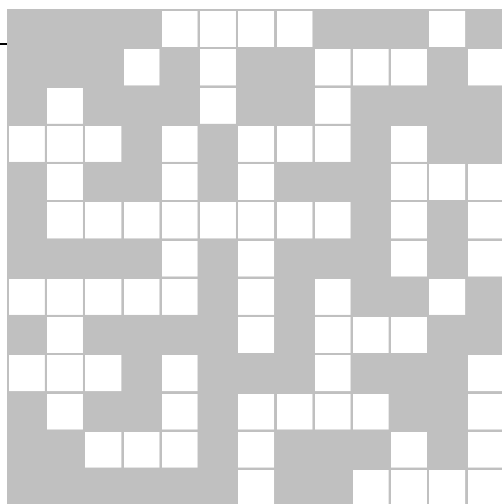
Jeremiah's messages weren't all bad. Read Jeremiah 29:1-10
Who is the message in the letter for? _____

What does God tell them to do? _____

How long would they be there? _____

Fit the words from Jeremiah 29:11_{NLT} into the grid.

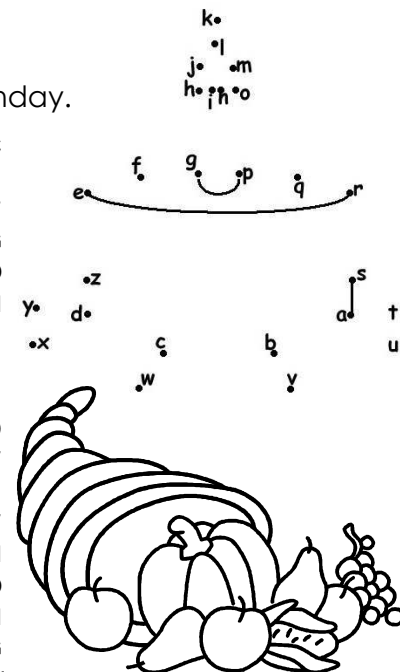
"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."



Wednesday

Find the underlined words from Monday.

N E B U C H A D N E Z Z A R C
H O I C E E S G O O D P O S I
T C O M P A R E D I V T E S T
E W I S E L C H O I C E E S G
V O A O D T R A I N I N G P O
E S L I T H I V E W I S E C H
G O L I C I M P R E S S E D E
E S O G O E O D P O S I T A I
T V W E F R I E N D S W I N S
A E E C H O I C E S G O O I D
B P D O S I T I P A L A C E V
L E W I S E C H O I I C E L S
E G W O O H D P O S K I T I V
S E O W I A S W A T E R E C H
O I R C E P S I G O D O D P O
S I K T I P V S E W I S E C H
O I E C W I N E E F O O D S G
O O D D P E O R S I T I V E W
I S E C H R O I C E S G O O D



Did you know that what you eat affects how well your brain works? Fruits and vegetables make your brain work faster and better, and make your thinking clearer. But sugary foods and fried foods make your thinking slower and make you tired. There is a saying, "Eat a rainbow" – meaning eat vegetables in all different colours – this helps you to get all the vitamins and minerals that your body needs. See how vegetables and fruit you can think of for each colour of the rainbow.

Red _____

Orange _____

Yellow _____

Green _____

Blue _____

Purple _____