

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C– Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**  
**RCL Old Testament Readings – Track One**

**Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10**

**Background:** We hear the history of God’s people, called by God, striving for right relationship, often failing and trying again. We hear of personal relationships with God, and the call to serve and lead God’s people. And we consider how we might be called by God to listen, to serve, to repent and try again.

**A Notation for This Week:** Jeremiah is called by God to deliver difficult news during challenging times. He pleads that he is too young, but God is not accepting that excuse. Jeremiah had plenty of reason to be reluctant. But he becomes an historic prophet and serves during the reign of five different kings, before and during the exile.

**Theme:** God Calls Each Of Us

**Before Class:** You will need a copy of the Contemporary English Version of the Bible or copies of the reading from an online site. Locate and learn music. You will need paper to be used for invitations, some nametags or large blank stickers/labels, and markers.

**Beginning:** Welcome the children and ask them to share things they are too young for, and other things they are now old enough to do. Tell them they will hear a story of someone who thought he was too young, but God already had plans for him.

**Opening Prayer:** Dear God, you are always with us to call us into ministry and to help us serve you. Open our hearts to hear your call for each of us. Amen.

**The Story: Jeremiah 1:4-10** Invite a younger person to read the passage from the Contemporary English Version (CEV) of the bible.

**Reflection Questions:**

- I wonder how Jeremiah felt when God called him to be a prophet?
- I wonder why God chose Jeremiah to deliver his message?
- I wonder if you have ever thought you were too young to do something?
- I wonder how we know when God is calling us to do something?

**Activity:** Invite the students to create a double list - on one side of the paper, they list activities that they used to be too young for but can now do. On the other side, they list activities they cannot yet do but hope to be able to do when they are older. Discuss those things that no one is too young to do - share a smile or hug, be kind, share laughter and love, etc. Invite them to consider someone who is younger than them and make that person an Invitation to Ministry. Perhaps this class can create invitations for a younger class or for children who have been recently baptized.

Using nametags or large blank labels, have the children make 2 stickers - one for them to wear and one to share with someone else. These stickers can be captioned “Not too young to serve!” or “I’m answering God’s call!” Students can decorate them with pictures of specific things they can do to serve God.

**Challenge of the week:** To share your second sticker with someone who needs affirmation.

**Closing Prayer:** Let today’s closing prayer be a commissioning. Hold out your hands and clasp hands with each child, looking them in the eye, as you say, “(Name,) God knows you and calls you into ministry.”

**Sing:** “Thuma Mina” (My Heart Sings Out) or “Here I Am Lord” (Wonder, Love and Praise) or “Lord You Give the Great Commission (Wonder, Love and Praise) or “God of Grace and God of Glory (Hymnal 1982) .

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