



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

Small Stewards – Big Blessings

Biblical Stewardship Lessons for and with Children

(You are invited to share this lesson with children in Sunday school openings, classroom devotions, children's worship messages, or other congregational settings. The lesson can also be used by the family. "Notes to Family" provides home applications and explorations. May the "small" Biblical stewardship mentors provide "big blessings" for children growing and sharing as God's stewards.)

Text: Jeremiah 1:4-7 (God calls a youth—Jeremiah—to be His prophet)

Every child has lamented being too young or too little. They are too little to board the amusement park ride or too young to be part of an adult adventure. Jeremiah used "too little" as an excuse, "I am only a youth." (vs. 6) God did not see Jeremiah as too young to be His "prophet to the nations." God would accompany His spokesman with His word and with his presence. For forty years Jeremiah shared God's judgement with Israel and often experienced suffering because of the messages from God

"I'm too little," is only one of the many excuses of children and adults. "I'm too tired;" "I'm too busy;" "I'm inexperienced." Jesus could have offered many excuses to avoid His mission. Fortunately, Jesus accepted and completed His Father's plan. Like Jeremiah, Jesus experienced suffering. He suffered for the sins of the world.

The God who responded to Jeremiah, "Do not say 'I am only a youth'" also reminded Timothy, "Let no one despise you for your youth." (1 Timothy 4:12) Service in God's kingdom does not have any age or size qualifications.

The mission and ministry of Lutheran Church Extension Fund blesses children as churches and schools are built as worship and education centers. LCEF also invites the participation of children as young investors. No child is too young to begin investing. Children are blessed with the knowledge that their investments are making a difference in the kingdom and making a difference in their financial future as the investment grows with generous interest returns. Parents and children can learn more by visiting lcef.org.

Prayers: Dear Jesus thank You for being the difference in our lives as our Savior. Thank You for the example of Your prophet Jeremiah. Whatever our age, help us to hear and answer Your call. Amen.

Small Stewards Bring Big Blessings Home—Notes to Family

Who was Jeremiah? Using the Lutheran Study Bible, a Bible dictionary, or some other resource find out more about this prophet. Jeremiah had some really hard assignments from God! What excuses have we sometimes used (as adults and children) to try to escape God's call for us? How can God use children to serve Him in the home, church, school, or community?

Parents, sometimes children are too little or too young for certain activities. We want them always physically and emotionally protected. We want them to fully celebrate their membership in God's kingdom and the gifts He gives them. If your church doesn't have a Young Investors' Club talk to your pastor about starting one (or volunteer to be the coordinator).