



UNPOPULAR SERIES



from **Godly Pearls**

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this resource.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 4 and distribute them to your students.



Topic: Ebedmelech – An example of courage and compassion.



Read the Bible References:

The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goal of Lesson:

- To encourage students to stand up for what is right through courage and compassion.



Lesson Takeaway:

God wants us to act with courage and compassion; to stand up for what is right even when it is difficult.



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Date:



Topic:

Ebedmelech – An example of courage and compassion.



Bible References:

Jeremiah 38:7-13;
Jeremiah 39:15-18.



Who was Ebedmelech?

The Bible mentions Ebedmelech in the book of Jeremiah. Ebedmelech was an Ethiopian eunuch who served King Zedekiah of Judah. His story teaches us important lessons about courage and compassion in a time of great danger and unrest.



What did Ebedmelech do?

Jeremiah, the prophet, had been thrown into a dungeon/cistern (like an underground well) by officials who opposed Jeremiah's messages from God for them. He was left to die in the cistern.

When Ebedmelech heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern, he went to the king, pleading for Jeremiah's life. He said, "My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon (cistern), and he is likely to die from hunger in the place where he is. For there is no more bread in the city (Jeremiah 38:9).

King Zedekiah was touched by Ebedmelech's plea, and he commanded Ebedmelech to take thirty men and pull Jeremiah out of the cistern.





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What did Ebedmelech do? (Contd.)

Ebedmelech acted quickly and with great care and compassion. He used old rags and clothes to protect Jeremiah from injury as they lifted him out. He said to Jeremiah, "Please put these old clothes and rags under your armpits, under the ropes" (Jeremiah 38:12). In Jeremiah 39:15 – 18, God acknowledged Ebedmelech's courage and compassion. Jeremiah received a message from God for Ebedmelech. God said, "Go and speak to Ebed-Melech the Ethiopian, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will bring My words upon this city for adversity and not for good, and they shall be performed in that day before you. But I will deliver you in that day," says the LORD, "and you shall not be given into the hand of the men of whom you are afraid. For I will surely deliver you, and you shall not fall by the sword; but your life shall be as a prize to you, because you have put your trust in Me," says the LORD" (Jeremiah 39:16-18).



What can we learn from Ebedmelech?

This short story of Ebedmelech teaches us important lessons about courage, compassion, and trust in God.

- Ebedmelech showed great courage by speaking up for Jeremiah, even though it could have put him in danger with King Zedekiah or the men who put Jeremiah in the dungeon. We should be willing to stand up for what is right, even when it's difficult or risky (Joshua 1:9, Isaiah 41:10). If we are afraid of speaking up, we can ask God for courage and wisdom (James 1:5).
- Ebedmelech's concern for Jeremiah's well-being led him to take action to save his life. The king could not ignore the compassion and care of Ebedmelech. He was also moved to give an order so that Jeremiah could be saved from dying in the dungeon/cistern. God wants us to have compassion on those who are in need or are having a hard time. Our compassion can lead us to take action to help, support and encourage them (Colossians 3:12; James 2:15 – 16).





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What can we learn from Ebedmelech? (contd.)

- Ebedmelech trusted in God, and God rewarded him for his faith and courage. God sees our actions – everything we do, say and think (Proverbs 15:3). When we stand for what is right, he will protect and bless us just like He did for Ebedmelech (Psalm 34:15 – 17).
- Ebedmelech spoke up for Jeremiah when Jeremiah could not speak for himself. We should be willing and ready to speak up for those who are oppressed, bullied or in need of help. God wants us to do what is right by being a voice for the voiceless (Proverbs 31:8 – 9; Isaiah 1:17).



Memorize:

Micah 6:8 - He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?



Scenario Review:

Tyler is a big boy, and he bullies other students at school. One day during lunch, he said to Sam, your friend: “Hand your sandwich over to me!” You knew it was not right for Tyler to do that. What would you do? Why did you make that choice?



Remember: God wants us to act with courage and compassion; to stand up for what is right even when it is difficult.



Let us pray: Dear God, I thank You for the wisdom to know what is right or wrong. Thank You because You see and know everything in our world. When someone is being treated wrongly, help me to act with care and compassion. Give me the courage to be a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. I ask this in Jesus’ name, amen!

