

10 GOD'S WORD REJECTED

KEY TEXT: JEREMIAH 36:19-31

CENTRAL truth

Sometimes we're tempted to ignore certain things, hoping they'll just go away. Judah had been ignoring God's Word while hoping everything would turn out the way they wanted. Judah's king went so far as to destroy a copy of God's Word; perhaps he thought destroying the written words of the prophecy would prevent the events of that prophecy from coming to pass. Judah and its king quickly discovered that **everything God's Word says will come to pass.**

key question

What changes happen in our lives if we're truly receiving and trusting in God's Word?

The phrase "in one ear and out the other" usually refers to someone who heard something but didn't listen to what they heard. Judah's king was willing to have God's Word read to Him, but he didn't like what he heard. Instead of hiding God's Word in his heart, he threw it on a hearth. The ultimate indicator that we are receiving and trusting in God's Word is our willingness to obey what it says.

keep in mind

- Students might identify a bit with King Jehioakim. After all, many of Jeremiah's words were prophecies of judgment and doom. Who wouldn't feel tempted to get rid of a message of doom and gloom concerning us? But Jeremiah's words also included many pleas for Judah to repent and be forgiven by God. Emphasize that the doom and gloom parts of the scroll were warnings intended to help Judah repent and be forgiven and restored by God.
- Often when we're in school, we're we are tested on information but not required to pursue application. Sometimes, we can treat God's Word like that, and just focus on making sure that we know the information in the Bible. However, the Bible only has power in our lives if we believe and obey it. Talk with students about the importance of not just reading, but also applying what we discuss and discover in God's Word.

application

How does God's Word help us follow God's plans for our lives?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Challenge students to identify something in God's Word that they are avoiding. Is there a part of the Bible they don't like and tend to (metaphorically speaking) throw into the fire? We can repent for resisting God's Word and freshly commit our lives to obeying all of what God's Word teaches.

FOR THE LEADER: Try and think of an aspect of God's Word that has been challenging for you to listen to and obey. How have you grown in submitting to God's Word because of your trust in His goodness?

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