



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 11: Trustworthy  
Suggested Week of Use: August 13, 2023  
Core Passage: Jeremiah 42:7-22

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### News Story Summary

The world watched and waited earlier this summer as the search for the OceanGate submersible *Titan* continued for several days. The underwater craft went silent shortly after submerging on its way to visit the wreck of the *Titanic* in late June. Newscasters noted the number of hours of oxygen that the crew and passengers had left as the world hoped for a successful end to the odyssey. Unfortunately, all five people onboard died when the submersible imploded.

According to some engineers, Stockton Rush, the former CEO of OceanGate and a victim of the *Titan* implosion, ignored safety warnings when he was building his submersible. Liz Taylor, a deep-sea engineer and president of Deep Ocean Exploration and Research Marine operations, has stated that Rush consulted with her in 2015 about using some new carbon fiber materials for his submersible. She advised against using carbon fiber because it was still in the experimental stage. Later, the Marine Technology Society also urged Rush not to use carbon fiber. Rush went ahead with the carbon fiber, Taylor said, because he was confident in his own engineering work. She also noted that he cut corners by not building a second submersible as a rescue vehicle. Taylor has suggested that Rush's hubris, complacency, and greed led to a tragic end.

For more about this story, search "OceanGate CEO ignored warnings."

### Focus Attention

To supplement the Engage activity, ask: *What warnings have you ignored? What were the results?* Note that ignored warnings always lead to consequences. Point out that sometimes the results are just frustrating; but, other times, they can be devastating. Share the news article about ignored warnings related to the submersible *Titan* that imploded in June. Say: *Experts believe this disaster could have been avoided if the proper warnings had been heeded.* Explain that in today's session, God gave His people instructions through the prophet, Jeremiah—along with serious warnings about what would happen if they ignored His commands.

### Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activity, remind the group of the reasons one deep-sea engineer cited for Stockton Rush's decision to ignore the advice he had been given while building the submersible *Titan*: hubris, complacency, and greed. Ask: *How might these three things have played into the Israelites decision to ignore God's warning? How do they play into our decisions to ignore clear warnings from God's Word?* Point out that fear also may have been a reason the Israelites rejected God's warnings and for our own rebellion against Him. Close with prayer, asking God to give adults the courage and humility to follow His commands and to live according to His Word.