

Animated Online (Elementary & Preteen)

Week 1

BIG IDEA

Because of God, I can feel secure.

BIBLE

Jeremiah at the Potter's House: Jeremiah 18:1–11; Psalm 139:1–14

SAY...

Welcome to our new series, *Animated!* **Let me ask you, what are some of your favorite animated movies or TV shows?** When something is animated, it is brought to life, like how cartoon drawings can move! During the next few weeks, we'll meet a group of people called prophets. Their job was to animate God's words and let people know the truth. But people didn't always want to hear it. That's why the prophets' lives weren't very easy and sometimes, they felt some very big feelings! We can learn a lot from the prophets about how to follow God through our own animated moments.

WHAT?

QUESTION | What makes you feel secure?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to discuss the following question.*
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Some preteens may need time to process their emotions or may not want to share aloud. Provide a journal page for kids to draw or write down their responses.*
- Feeling secure is the opposite of feeling in danger or scared.
- **Is there something like a favorite stuffed animal or maybe a pet that helps you feel secure? Or do you have a place, like your grandparents' home or your room, where you feel the most secure?** Maybe you feel the most secure right before you drift off to sleep.
- **What's one thing in your life that makes you feel, or has made you feel, secure?**

SO WHAT?

SCRIPTURE | Jeremiah 18:1–11 (Jeremiah at the Potter's House)

- **Do you like movies?** I do! Some of my favorite movies are animated. We can learn so much from these movies. Today, we're going to watch a short clip from a neat animated movie.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *To prepare for today's Bible story, have [this clip](#) from "Raya and the Last*

Dragon" ready. Download one or two images of a potter working at their wheel. You can use [this site](#) as inspiration. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)

- In this movie, *Raya and the Last Dragon*, Raya has just made a big mistake in revealing the location of the dragon gem to someone she thought she could trust. As a result, her village was destroyed and her father was turned into stone.
- **What kinds of feelings do you think Raya experienced in this clip? What about her father, Chief Benja?**
- Animated can mean a type of movie like we just saw, but it can also be used to describe people. When someone is "animated," they show their emotions in a big way. We were able to see the big emotions Raya and her father were feeling in the scene we just saw.
- In today's Bible story, we're going to talk about a guy named Jeremiah. Jeremiah was no stranger to having all the feels.
 - Jeremiah was overwhelmed with emotion. He was so big in his emotions, his nickname was "the weeping prophet."
 - Jeremiah wrote the book of the Bible we're going to read some of today, as well as a book called Lamentations. Lamentation is a big word that basically means to show some serious sadness.
- Prophets were people that shared God's truth. And the truth that God gave to Jeremiah to share made Jeremiah really, really sad. Kind of like what Mufasa told Simba in *The Lion King* movie, God's message to Jeremiah was about how God's people had messed up. Not only had they done wrong, but they kept doing the wrong things for a long time. And now, God told Jeremiah, there would be consequences for their wrongdoing.
- The story we're about to read was written from Jeremiah's point of view.
- *[Read Jeremiah 18:1-4.]*
 - **Does anyone know what a potter does?** *[Show one or two images of a potter working at their wheel.]*
- *[Read Jeremiah 18:5-11.]*
 - God compared the clay in the potter's hands to God's people in God's hands. God wanted to remind Jeremiah that, even though there would be consequences, God's people were still in God's hands. God was shaping and molding them like a potter does with clay. God wants the very best for us, much like how Mufasa wanted for Simba.
- It was okay for Jeremiah to feel sad about what God was showing him. But, because of this picture of us being like clay in God's caring hands, Jeremiah could also feel another big feeling — Jeremiah could feel secure.

BIG IDEA | Because of God, I can feel secure.

- Let's all say the Big Idea together: **Because of God, I can feel secure.**

VIDEO | Animated, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 139:1-14

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid some play dough to hold as you talk about the Bible passage.*
- *[Read Psalm 139:13-14.]*

- God created each of us. God has been involved in our lives since the very beginning, and God thinks we're awesome. Not only did God make us, God knows us better than anyone.
- *[Read Psalm 139:1-6.]*
 - God is always, and will always, be shaping you. Even right now, God is forming you perfectly — just like you're forming the Play-Doh in your hands. No matter what situation you find yourself in, you're right there with God.
- *[Read Psalm 139:7-12.]*
 - Think about the dough you're holding in your hands. **What would it be like to carry it with you all the time?** You would be very close to this Play-Doh if you had to hold it every moment of every day?
 - In the same way, God is close to you and chooses to be! In fact, God chose to be so close that Jesus, God's own kid, came to Earth as a human just like us, and spent time with people. That shows just how much God is looking out for us and loves us.
- Whenever you're not sure of yourself or feel like you're not enough, remember God made you and loves you exactly the way you were made. Tell yourself each day, **"Because of God, I can feel secure."**

NOW WHAT?

REFLECTION | Before You Were Born

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to reflect on their feelings using an emoji chart like one from [this site](#).*
- Just like a potter's hands are on every part of their creation, God knows every part of our lives. Even when things feel crazy, God is always molding and shaping us.
- Before you were born, you didn't even have the ability to move or make sense of what was happening around you. Even then, God was forming you.
- **How do you feel knowing God was thinking about you before you could even think?** *[Invite kids to point to the emoji that best describes how they feel and ask them why they picked that emotion.]*

MEMORY VERSE | Romans 15:13a (NIV)

- **"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Project the memory verse graphic on the screen and give some of the kids a chance to recite it in the voice of their favorite movie or TV character. You may need to go first by saying the verse like Mickey Mouse (It's easy — just talk really high and add an "oh boy!" at the end). Other characters could include Peppa Pig, Batman, Yoda, The Chipmunks, etc. (Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs — a combination of SEE and ASL — available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Romans15-13a.)*

PRAYER

- Dear God, we thank you for always caring about us and being with us. Thank you for reminding us through your prophet Jeremiah that we're always in your hands. Remind us that you're forming us all the time, in really hard times and in really good times. Help us to remember that no matter what comes in life, we can feel secure in you. Amen.

SMALL G Do you like movies? I do! Some of my favorite movies are animated. We can learn so much from these movies. Today, we're going to watch a short clip from a neat animated movie. INSTRUCTIONS: To prepare for today's Bible story, have this clip from "Ra

DISCUSSION

- **Why was Jeremiah called the "weeping prophet?"**
- **Where did God tell Jeremiah to go?**
- **What did God want Jeremiah to remember?**
- **Read Psalm 139:7-12. The writer of Psalm 139 used creative ways, like word pictures, to describe God's care. Can you remember one? Which stuck out to you most and why?**
- **When might be a time you don't feel secure?**
- **How might today's Bible story about the life of Jeremiah change the way you look at sad situations in your life?**
- **Who are some people God put in your life to help you feel secure? How do they do that?**