

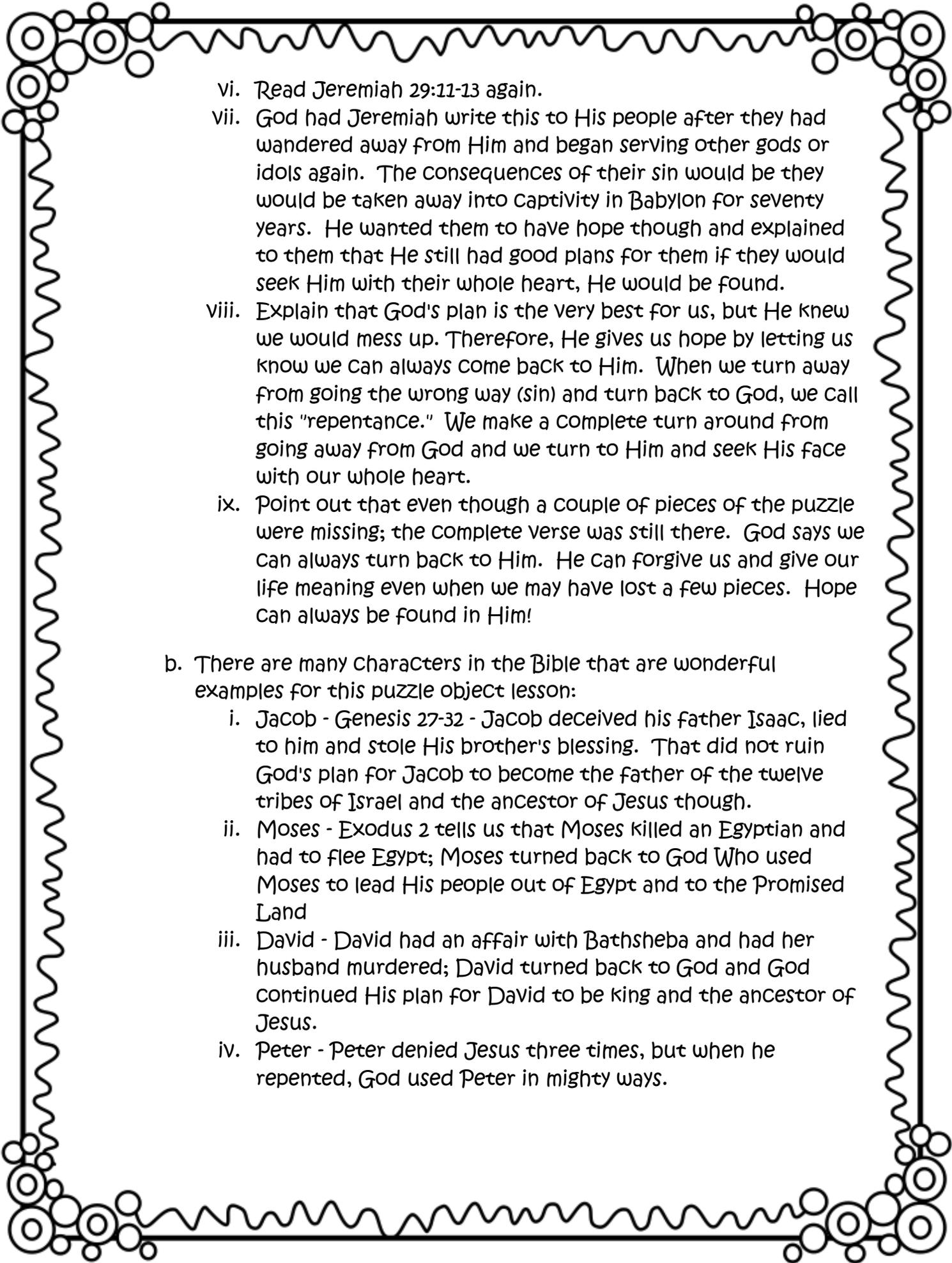
Redeemer Lutheran Church “At-Home” Sunday School Packet Sunday, September 27, 2020

Today's Bible Lesson: “Purpose” Jeremiah 29:4-14

Purpose is why we exist. Believers in Jesus have both a collective purpose and an individual purpose for their existence. Knowing your purpose in life is to know the role God has given you in His plan. As we get in the game, we need to understand our purpose.

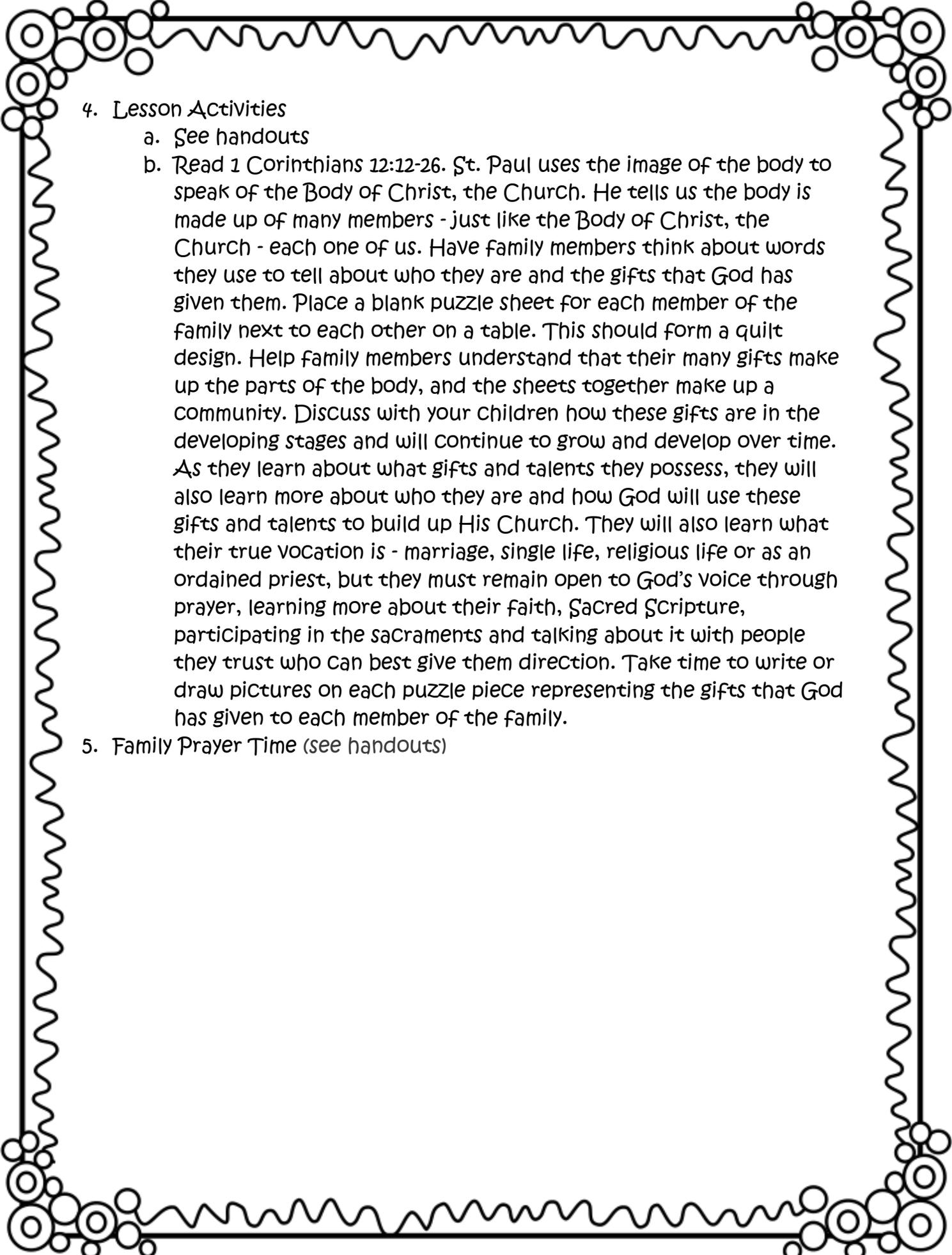
*To find links to the videos mentioned, go to the church website (redeemerlutheran.us). Under Ministries, go to Youth and then Children's Ministries.

1. Begin with Luther's Morning Prayer (see handout)
2. Family Sing-A-Long Videos*
 - a. “The B-I-B-L-E”
 - b. “Praise Ye the Lord”
 - c. “What a Mighty God We Serve”
3. Today's Lesson
 - a. Read the lesson (see handout)
 - i. Cut out the pieces of the puzzle ahead of time. Remove the two blank pieces from the rest.
 - ii. Lay the pieces of the puzzle face down with the Bible verse words facing up. Ask children if they know what the picture will be when the puzzle is put together. When we buy a puzzle do we usually know what the picture will be? How? (The picture is on the box.)
 - iii. God knows the whole picture of our life and He has a plan we can trust.
 - iv. Give them time to put the puzzle together using the reading.
 - v. When they realize there are a couple of pieces missing, ask them if the verse was still complete. The point is that God gives us free will; we make choices and sometimes they are the wrong choices, but that doesn't mean our life is ruined!

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- vi. Read Jeremiah 29:11-13 again.
 - vii. God had Jeremiah write this to His people after they had wandered away from Him and began serving other gods or idols again. The consequences of their sin would be they would be taken away into captivity in Babylon for seventy years. He wanted them to have hope though and explained to them that He still had good plans for them if they would seek Him with their whole heart, He would be found.
 - viii. Explain that God's plan is the very best for us, but He knew we would mess up. Therefore, He gives us hope by letting us know we can always come back to Him. When we turn away from going the wrong way (sin) and turn back to God, we call this "repentance." We make a complete turn around from going away from God and we turn to Him and seek His face with our whole heart.
 - ix. Point out that even though a couple of pieces of the puzzle were missing; the complete verse was still there. God says we can always turn back to Him. He can forgive us and give our life meaning even when we may have lost a few pieces. Hope can always be found in Him!

b. There are many characters in the Bible that are wonderful examples for this puzzle object lesson:

- i. Jacob - Genesis 27-32 - Jacob deceived his father Isaac, lied to him and stole His brother's blessing. That did not ruin God's plan for Jacob to become the father of the twelve tribes of Israel and the ancestor of Jesus though.
- ii. Moses - Exodus 2 tells us that Moses killed an Egyptian and had to flee Egypt; Moses turned back to God Who used Moses to lead His people out of Egypt and to the Promised Land
- iii. David - David had an affair with Bathsheba and had her husband murdered; David turned back to God and God continued His plan for David to be king and the ancestor of Jesus.
- iv. Peter - Peter denied Jesus three times, but when he repented, God used Peter in mighty ways.



4. Lesson Activities

- a. See handouts
 - b. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. St. Paul uses the image of the body to speak of the Body of Christ, the Church. He tells us the body is made up of many members - just like the Body of Christ, the Church - each one of us. Have family members think about words they use to tell about who they are and the gifts that God has given them. Place a blank puzzle sheet for each member of the family next to each other on a table. This should form a quilt design. Help family members understand that their many gifts make up the parts of the body, and the sheets together make up a community. Discuss with your children how these gifts are in the developing stages and will continue to grow and develop over time. As they learn about what gifts and talents they possess, they will also learn more about who they are and how God will use these gifts and talents to build up His Church. They will also learn what their true vocation is - marriage, single life, religious life or as an ordained priest, but they must remain open to God's voice through prayer, learning more about their faith, Sacred Scripture, participating in the sacraments and talking about it with people they trust who can best give them direction. Take time to write or draw pictures on each puzzle piece representing the gifts that God has given to each member of the family.
5. Family Prayer Time (see handouts)



Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

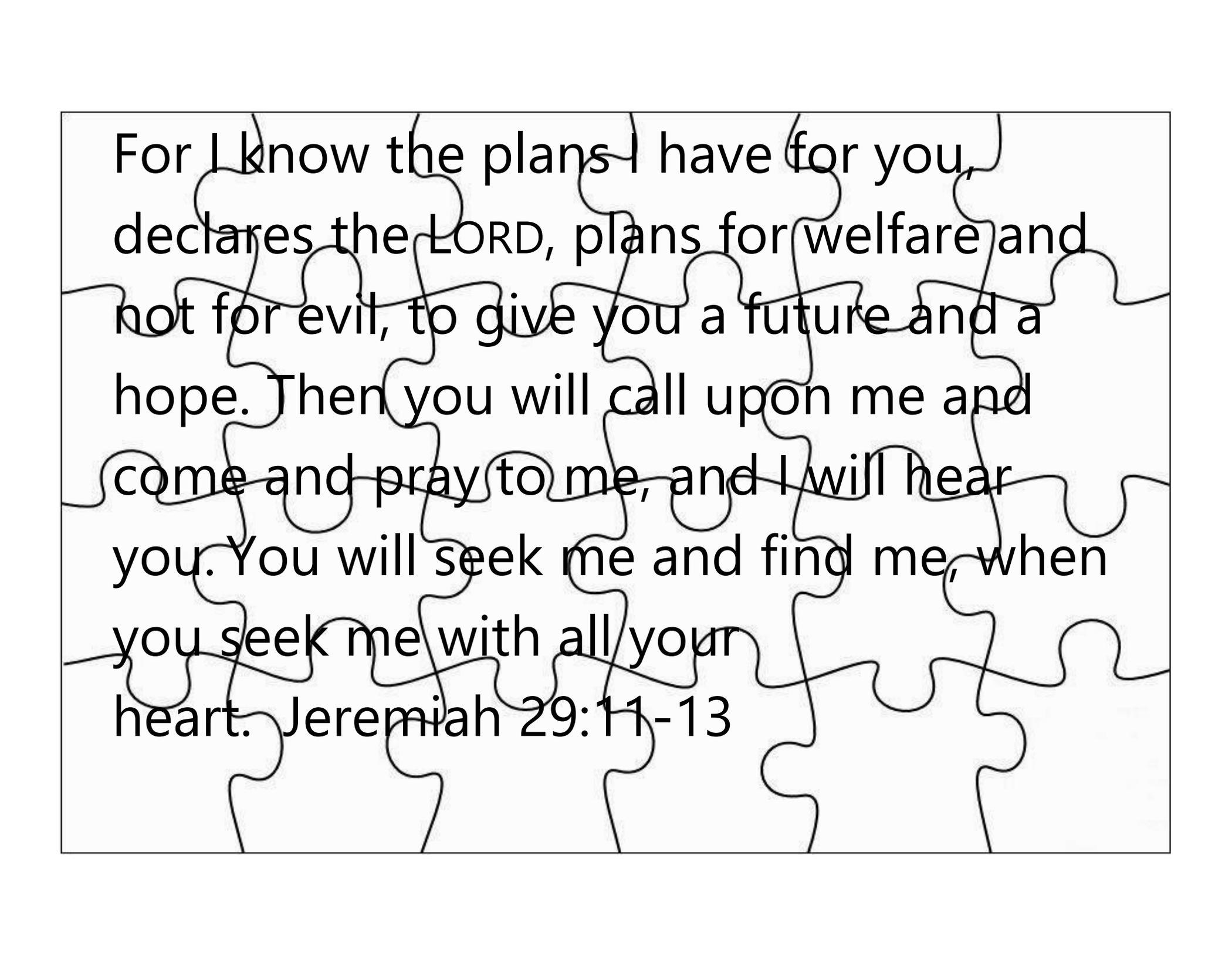
I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Jeremiah 29:4-14

⁴ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

¹⁰ "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.



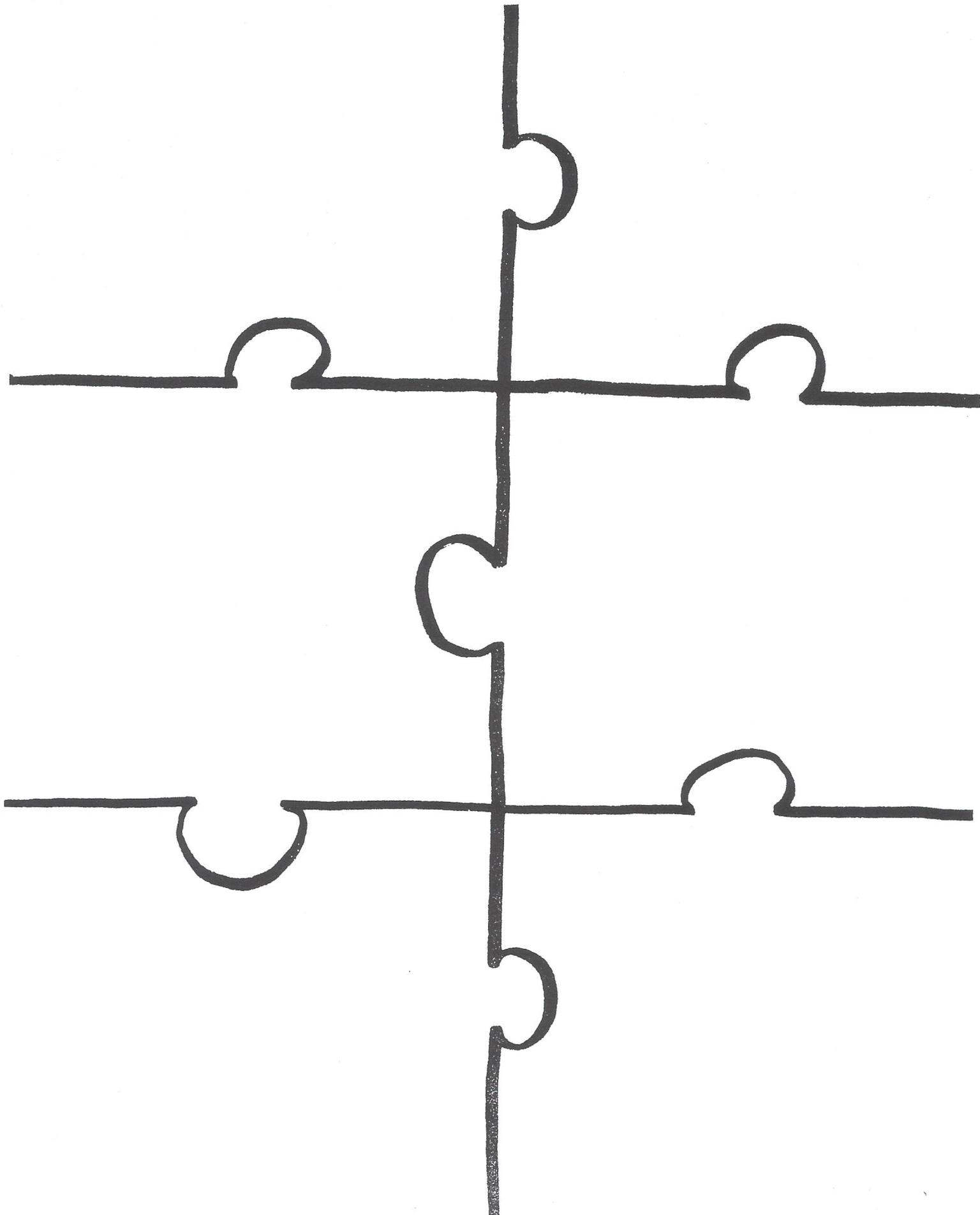
For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the LORD, plans for welfare and
not for evil, to give you a future and a
hope. Then you will call upon me and
come and pray to me, and I will hear
you. You will seek me and find me, when
you seek me with all your
heart. Jeremiah 29:11-13

“For I know
the plans I
have for
you.”



Jeremiah
29:11 ESV

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The 5 Finger Prayer

Thumb: Those closest to you, your family.

Pointer: Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, priests) ask for wisdom & support.

Index: (tallest) Those that lead us, (Government) ask for guidance & wisdom.

Ring: (weakest) Those that are weak, in trouble, or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.

Pinkie: (smallest) Our prayers for ourselves & our own needs.



MY WORLD:

MONDAY

This month, I will pray for the country of _____

These are some of the things I will pray about:

MY COMMUNITY:

WEDNESDAY

This is what I will pray about for my community:

WHAT I AM THANKFUL FOR THIS MONTH:

SATURDAY

MY COUNTRY:

TUESDAY

I will pray for my own country! These are some of the things I will pray about this month:

MY FRIENDS:

THURSDAY

This month I will pray for _____

These are the things I will pray about:

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT GOD THIS MONTH:

MY FAMILY:

FRIDAY

This month I will pray for:

SUNDAY