Activity: Bible Names and Places

Teaching Goal: Fun and simple prayers.

Scriptures Jeremiah 1:1-3 The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anothoth in the territory of Benjamin. The word of the Lord came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

Materials: None

Lesson and discussion

Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

- A. ACTIVITY #1: **We are going to role-play solving a crime.** The leader will be the detective and everyone else will be a suspect. **The police department has special officers who are called "detectives." What does a detective do?** *Listen*. Try to solve a crime. **One technique used by detectives to solve crimes is to compare information from witnesses and suspects.**

- **I am going to be the detective and you are going to be suspects in a crime. We are going to pretend that a crime has occurred. The evidence shows that a group of vandals broke in through a window, wrote graffiti all over the school walls, and stole books out of a classroom.**
Cont…….

FAMILY FUN TIME ACTIVITY

Continued ….
I caught all of you together not far from the school. I suspected your group but all of you said that you were over at a friend's house playing a game. Now I'm going to interview you, one at a time, to see if your story is true. If your story—that you were at a friend's house—is true then you will be innocent. If your story is not true then you will go on trial for the crime.
Use a separate room for meeting with group members one at a time. Do not let members influence the answers of others in the group after they have been questioned. One at a time, ask each member the following questions:
 1. **What is the name of your friend whose house you were at during the time of the crime?**
 2. **You mentioned at the time I caught you that you were playing a game at your friend's house. What game were you playing?**
 3. **The crime occurred at 7:10 p.m.   What time did you arrive at your friend's house and what time did you leave?**
 4. **What color is your friend's house and is it a one-story or two-story house?**
 After everyone has been questioned, compare the answers and point out the differences. **When people give conflicting or wrong answers, then the truth of their story is questioned and they are considered suspects. Your answers did not match so you would all be suspects for the crime at the school.**
 B. **Did you know that there are special "detectives" that question what is written in the Bible to see if it is true? They are called archeologists.   What does an archeologist do?** *Listen to answers.* **They dig up old cities and materials that have been buried for thousands of years. Archeologists have dug up many of the cities and locations mentioned in the Old Testament and New Testaments. They compare what they find with what the Bible says.**
 Invite a volunteer to read Jeremiah 1:1-3. Let them know in advance that it is okay if they struggle with pronouncing the names. **These verses were written by the prophet Jeremiah over 2,500 years ago.**
 Look at all the facts listed in these three verses of the Bible. Six people are mentioned: Jeremiah; Hilkiah; Josiah; Amon; Jehoiakim; and Zedekiah. Four places are mentioned: Anothoth; Benjamin; Judah; and Jerusalem.   It even mentions the time: thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah; fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah.
 This is the type of evidence—names, places and dates—that Bible detectives, archeologists, use to confirm that the Bible is true. They dig up walls with writings and pictures carved in bricks. The writings tell us about people, places and times.
 When friends ask, "How do you know the Bible is true?" One answer is that Bible detectives—archeologists—dig up evidence that supports what the Bible says.
 II. Close in Prayer
 III. Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this lesson and pass it on to another family