



the  
eastside

STORY  
GUILD

— AT HOME —

**ESG AT HOME:**

**STORY**

**AND**

**CREATIVE**

**RESPONSE**

**INVITATION**

## **Jeremiah - Part 3**

**If you want to listen to Melanie reading this, the audio version is on our website!**

### **STORY:**

*My named is Baruch, which means “Blessed,” and I was blessed with a calling to be a scribe. It’s a scribe’s job to write things down exactly the way they’re meant to be written. A famous person makes a speech, a poet comes up with the words for a poem, a king makes an announcement to the people – All of this needs to be written down so that many people, people from far away, people years later or in distant lands can unroll the scroll to read the words of the messenger, or poet, or king.*

*I was very excited to get my first job being a scribe for a young prophet, writing down the words that he said, the messages that he gave from God to the people. Only, when I started this job, I didn’t realize what kind of prophet this was. One of those popular prophets that everyone wants to hear? Someone who will sugarcoat things so they don’t sound so bad? Nooo! I got Jeremiah. That was his real name, but the people nicknamed him “Danger Everywhere” because that’s what most of his prophecies sounded like.*

*Here’s a sample of some of the things he heard from God and announced to the people and the priests and the king:*

*The people of Jerusalem are fools, even their educated leaders.*

*They don’t know how the LORD wants them to live.*

*They don’t have a clue God wants them to do.  
(Jeremiah 5:4)*

*You'll be punished because you have sinned and turned away from God!  
(Jeremiah 2:19)*

*Listen! A message is coming!*

*I hear the sound of a great army marching down from the north!*

*It will turn Judah's towns into a desert until only wild dogs live in them.*

*(Jeremiah 10:22)*

*So, you know, lots of cheery messages like that to write down.*

*Sometimes that was really hard, working for someone who was so unpopular. But I knew that Jeremiah wasn't making the messages up. Other prophets just said whatever they thought the people wanted to hear: Cheery, good news no matter what. No matter how bad things got, they'd say, "Oh no, it's fine. Don't worry about the way God wants you to live, it's not really a big deal. You can be selfish, if you want. After all, you have to look out for Number 1! Nothing bad will ever happen, even though you're hurting other people and the earth. No biggie! And don't pay any attention to that massive army headed our way. We're sure they won't attack us. It'll all be fine. Trust us."*

*Those prophets were liars, through and through, but Jeremiah was the real deal. He listened to God and said exactly what God had told him, even when it meant that the priests banished us from the Temple or made a law that Jeremiah wasn't allowed to talk in public any more. After that, Jeremiah did most of his talking to me, and I wrote down everything he said, all the warnings that Babylon really was going to send their army to attack and that God was telling the people not to fight back. We tried to get those*

*messages to the city leaders but they were so stubborn and arrogant they didn't pay any attention. And eventually Babylon destroyed the city of Jerusalem, burnt down the palaces and the Temple, and kidnapped all the rulers, court officials, the royal family, and the skilled workers and took them into exile in Babylon.*

*Jeremiah and I were left behind among the ruins of the city, along with others that the Babylonians hadn't bothered to take away. And even then the false prophets were trying to give their good news messages: "Well, we were wrong about Babylon. Looks like they did destroy the city. Woops. But it's not that bad. We're sure that the exiles will be sent home really soon, like in the next couple of months. Maybe a year, tops. Don't worry about it."*

*Another thing that scribes do is write letters. And now Jeremiah had a letter he wanted me to write to all the people living in exile in Babylon, the people hearing the words of the false prophets and hoping that they would be heading home in the next few weeks.*

*Here's what Jeremiah's letter said:*

*Dear Exiles living far away,  
God has a message for you: "Build houses and make your homes right where you are in Babylon. Plant gardens and eat the food that grows. Get married. Have children. When they grow up let your children get married so that then they too can have children. Work for the success of the city I have sent you to. Pray to me for that city. If things go well for Babylon, things will go well for you. You will be forced to live in Babylon for 70 years. After they are over, I will come to you. My good promise to you will come true. I will bring you back home. I have good plans for you. I'm not planning to hurt you! I will give you hope for the years to come. When you come and pray to me, I'll listen. When you come looking for me, you'll find me. Yes, when you get serious about finding me*

*and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed. And I will bring you back from where you were taken as prisoners. I will gather you from exile and bring you back home."*

*And because this message came from Jeremiah, who was a trustworthy prophet, I knew that this good news for the people in exile really came from God. And that gave me hope.*

- *I wonder how you feel when you get bad news.*
- *I wonder how you feel when someone gives you a warning and tells you that you need to act differently or you'll be headed for trouble.*
- *I wonder how a warning can be good news.*
- *I wonder what is the difference between false hope and true hope.*
- *I wonder how God was taking care of the people when they were sent into exile.*

# All ages:

Jeremiah was a real person, just like you and me, who chose to speak straight from his heart. He didn't "sugar coat" his messages, he said exactly what he meant too, he was the "real deal". I'm guessing the reason for this was that he cared more about getting his message across clearly than what people thought of him after he delivered his message. And the exciting thing about those who don't worry about what others think of them is that often people will want to listen to them more!



Greta Thunberg, the 17 year old Swedish Environmental activist, is a person that I highly admire. She is someone who definitely cares more about her message than what others think of her. She has so much conviction and passion! And she is very authentic.

How can you deliver your message authentically?

Answer: BE YOURSELF!

If you believe in something so much it affects how you live your life, and you speak honestly from your heart, then that is authenticity!

Last week you learned about film angles, and different ways you can create a film. This week is all about acting for

film! The main difference between stage acting vs. film acting is maximum movement vs. minimum movement. Often film acting is called “acting with your eyes” because all of the emotion needs to be communicated through your eyes... especially for those close-up scenes!

### **Film acting exercises:**

1a. Say your lines from your film project, (or our Mary play, or any script you have!), the way you would normally **onstage**, using your whole body, hands, facial expressions. Use as much expression and movement as you can!

1b. Now say those same lines for a **film camera** and try to minimize your movement by sitting on your hands. Try to convey emotion and express yourself by using minimal body movement. Show it through your face and eyes.

3. Watch a non-animated movie and take notes! Notice how the actors playing the characters have very small, minimal movements, especially during close-ups.

4. Anything that’s not on camera: it doesn’t matter! The audience doesn’t see it! Look back at all the film angles from last week and act with the knowledge of what is actually going to be in the shot. For example, a wide angle shows an actors full body, so act knowing that the audience can see your whole body. But a mid angle only shows torso and up, so you don’t need to act with your legs at all. You could be wearing pyjama pants and no one would know!

***Put the finishing touches on your film and email it to us!***





# CHECK-IN QUESTION:

What is one place you've seen God around us (*like in the lines of our closing song*) in the past ESG year (*from Sept to now*)?

And/Or:

What is something you're looking forward to next year?

We'd love to know your answer!  
Please send us your answer, as  
well as any responses to the  
creative response.

**You may write us back or film  
a video and email us!**

**HAVE A WONDERFUL  
SUMMER - SEE YOU IN  
PERSON FOR OUR NEXT  
ESG SEASON!!!**