

A WAY IN THE Wilderness

March 21, 2021 – 5th Sunday of Lent

A Way in the Wilderness: When We Need to Start Over
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Devotion

I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Jeremiah 31:33b

Do you remember when we talked about God's special promise or covenant? It was a few Sundays ago when we learned about Abraham. God made a covenant with Abraham and said he would be the father of many nations. Well, in today's scripture we hear about God's new covenant! God says that He will put His law in His peoples' minds and write it on their hearts. Not only that, but He will be their God! This is an exciting new special promise that God made with His people.

Have you ever been working on something and have not liked how it was going and decided you needed to start again? Or maybe you are playing putt-putt and your first hit doesn't go very well, and you call a Mulligan, which is a weird word for taking the shot one more time?

I know there have been times in my life that I wanted to make a new start. Did you know that I used to be a music teacher? I did! And I thought I would do that for my whole life. Well, God had a different plan for me. He decided that I would have a career do-over by working for His kingdom by being a presence in your faith journey! We never know what God may have in store for each of us when we say "YES" to Him. I am so glad that I followed what God had planned for me. I am so blessed to have you in my life and to share my love for Jesus with you! This week when you are spending your quiet time with God, think about where you might need to have a fresh start or a do-over. Maybe you aren't doing so well at school and you need to spend more time studying in one area. Maybe you need a do-over when it comes to completing your chores. Ask God to help you in the area where you may need to start over.

PRAYER: Dear God, we thank You for the grace that You give to us when we need to start over. We are so grateful that You gave a new covenant to us with Your Son, Jesus. May we always know that You have written on our hearts with Your everlasting and vast love for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.
~Tammy Palermo

Snack Recipe: Sweetheart Cinnamon Rolls

Ingredients

1 can (13 oz) refrigerated flaky cinnamon rolls with icing

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Spray 9-inch round cake pan with cooking spray.



2. Carefully unwind each roll into long strip of dough, leaving center coiled. Coil the unrolled end of each strip in toward center, making two equal coils. Pull middle of strip down to make a point, forming heart shape; pinch point. Place in pan, points toward center.

3. Bake 13 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Cool 5 minutes before removing to cooling rack. Spread frosting over warm rolls.

Snack idea to buy: Chocolate Heart Candy

Activity/Game: Children understand rules and think they are important. To get at what Jeremiah meant when he said God would write the Law on their hearts, *compare rules you have to follow with those you want to follow*. Describe a checkers game during which players spend more time arguing about the rules than they do playing the game. They have to check the rule book and argue about what each rule means on each play. Then describe a soccer game in which players on both teams know the rules so well that they can use them to play the very best game possible. Which game is more fun? Jeremiah is promising that one day everyone will know God's rules as well as championship soccer players know the rules of their game. Because of that life will be full of peace and joy for everyone.

A temporary tattoo is in this bag. Talk about using tattoos to identify yourself. Note the difference in how long stick-on and permanent tattoos last. We can try out stick on tattoos. But when you get a permanent tattoo it is going to be there the rest of your life. It will become part of us. Jeremiah is saying that God's Law will be tattooed on us, it will become part of us forever.

Coloring Sheet: Jeremiah