

Jeremiah 38; 39; 40:1-6

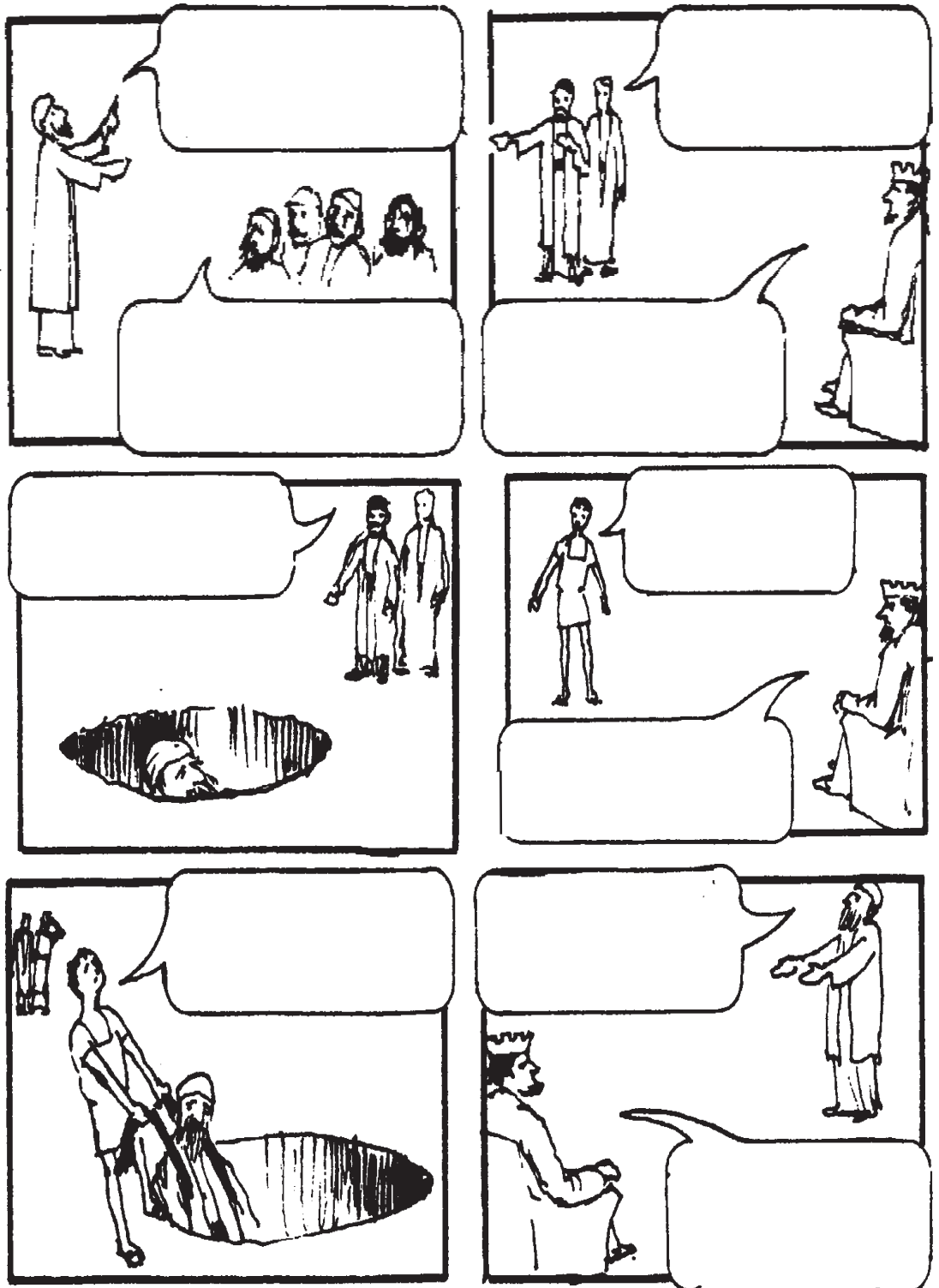
Israel is a scattered flock that lions have chased away. The first to devour him was the king of Assyria; the last to crush his bones was Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

Jeremiah 50:17

Readings this week:

- S Jeremiah 21
- M Jeremiah 38: 1-13
- T Jeremiah 38: 14-28
- W Jeremiah 39
- Th Jeremiah 40: 1-6
- F 2 Kings 25: 1-21
- S Lamentations 1: 1-5

Read Jeremiah 38 together. Use the cartoon to fill in what the people may have been saying to each other.



Ebed-Melech was very brave to stand up to the influential people around him and rescue Jeremiah in spite of them. He might have thought he would be the next one in the pit, as a punishment! God looked after him and recognised his bravery and the fact that he had put all his trust in God to do what was right. Look at Jeremiah 39:15-18 to read the special message God had for him.

CITY CAPTURED

WALL BROKEN THROUGH



The scene this morning in the Temple area

KING ZEDEKIAH TAKEN

JEREMIAH IS FREED

When you pray asking God for help, are you prepared to wait for the answer? It's easy to be like Zedekiah and just look at the things around us and forget that God is in control. Try to be patient when things aren't going right - in the end you'll be able to see God was with you all the time.

Better still - be like Jeremiah and don't forget about God in the first place!

Digging Deeper

You learnt in the lesson that when Jerusalem was captured Jeremiah remained in the land with the poorest people and with Gedaliah the governor.

Who were Gedaliah's father and grandfather? Where have you heard of them before? Jeremiah 26:24 and 2 Kings 22:8-10.

Read Jeremiah 40:7-12 to see how Gedaliah protected the people. What happened to him? 40:13-41:10.

Did the people change their ways? Jeremiah 42. What did Jeremiah tell them and what did they want to do? What would happen if they did? What happened next? 43:1-7.

What did God say would happen 42:8-13 (and 43)?

Pray that you will be able to trust in God and be brave if you have to go through hard times.