



BEFORE

JULY 15 AND 19, 2020



Before Jeremiah was born, God chose him for a purpose. This isn't only true for Jeremiah, but for every person who has ever lived. To be created in God's image is to be created for a purpose. Paul said, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which He has prepared in advance for us to do," (Ephesians 2:10). Join us for part one of **Jeremiah: A Prophet for the City** as we explore God's call to join Him in His great redemptive work.

PASSAGE (READ):

Jeremiah 1

PRINCIPLE (KNOW):

God's plan for Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:4-5)

- God knew Jeremiah -
- God chose Jeremiah -
- God appointed Jeremiah -

Jeremiah's objection (Jeremiah 1:6)

God's solution (Jeremiah 1:7-10)

PRACTICE (DO):

- Do you know the God who made you for a purpose?
- Are you cooperating with Him and His purpose or are you living a treasonous life?
- Participate in the 7:14 Forty Day Prayer Challenge.
- Go through this week's discussion guide with a small group or accountability partner.
- Use the resources and daily readings to dig deeper into the book of Jeremiah.

DAILY READINGS:

Day 1: 2 Kings 21

Day 2: 2 Kings 22

Day 3: 2 Kings 23

Day 4: Jeremiah 36

Day 5: Jeremiah 1

Day 6: Psalm 139

Day 7: Jeremiah 2

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

BOOKS:

Run with the Horses, by Eugene Peterson

OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL SERMON SERIES

Abraham: Inside Out (2010)

Moses: An Instrument of Purpose (2013)

Joshua (2013)

Ruth: A Story of Generous Love (2014)

Jonah: Welcome to Nineveh (2012)

Paul: Journey to the Ends of the Earth (2018)

RIGHTNOW MEDIA (VISIT SSBC.ORG/FAMILY-RESOURCES):

Precepts for Life: Jeremiah, Part 1 and 2, by Kay Arthur

Worldview: Thinking and Living Biblically, by Greg Laurie and others

Intro to the Major Prophets, by J. B. Nicholson

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS



HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts related to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. Do you believe every person has been created for a specific purpose? If so, do they have a choice whether or not they will cooperate? Why or why not?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Read Jeremiah 1:11-12.
 - God frequently uses illustrations, metaphors, and examples to communicate. Jesus frequently used stories (called parables) to teach His disciples. Do you have any favorite biblical metaphors or illustrations? If so, what are they and why do they stand out in your memory?
 - Sometimes the meaning of an image is closely tied to the original Hebrew word. The Hebrew word for "almond" sounds very much like the Hebrew word for "watching." Based on verse 12, how does this help explain the meaning of Jeremiah's vision?
 - The images God uses are often found in other biblical texts that help us understand their meaning. Based on Numbers 17:1-5 and 8, what might Jeremiah's vision of an almond branch mean?
 - Read Jeremiah 1:4-6. How do these verses and the passage in Numbers 17 help you better understand what God may be saying to Jeremiah through the image of an almond branch?
 - Prophets are God's messengers, but in this case, the message may have been for the messenger. Have you ever been in a situation when God has spoken to you even as He was using you to serve someone else? Talk about it.
4. Read Jeremiah 1:13-16.
 - The second image Jeremiah sees comes with a much more specific explanation. Describe the message Jeremiah is supposed to deliver to the people based on this image?
 - **[SPOILER ALERT]** Read Jeremiah 52:1-7 and 12-16. How does this historical account align with God's message to Jeremiah in chapter 1?
 - Why would God allow a pagan nation to defeat His own people? How is this evidence of His love?
5. Read Jeremiah 1:17-19.
 - Chapter one opens with God's call, Jeremiah's objection, and God's response (1:1-10). That's followed by the message God gave Jeremiah to deliver (1:13-16). Finally, chapter one closes with God encouraging Jeremiah for the work that was before him (1:17-19). Why would God's encouragement after giving Jeremiah this specific message be important?
 - In your own words, how does God encourage Jeremiah for the work set before Him?
 - Based on Jeremiah 1, what can we learn about God, His ways, and those He uses to accomplish His purposes? Would you want to be one of God's prophets? Why or why not?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together - in Huddles]

6. In this week's message, Gary said, "We will either take up the positions for which we have been chosen, or we will live treasonous lives opposed to God and His ways." Given where you are right now, are you taking up your position or living a treasonous life? Why or why not? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.