

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19

LEADER'S STUDY

Supernatural Call, Supernatural Provision

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19

What is happening?

The prophet Jeremiah writes about God's call to speak His word to the nation of Judah. We don't know Jeremiah's exact age, but it's believed he was probably still at home with his parents. This awesome calling would be scary for a mature adult, let alone a kid in his teens or early twenties. But God empowered him to say whatever He told him to say, even in the face of vehement opposition.

Though God promised to deliver Jeremiah from his attackers, the scriptures record that his prophecies were met with ridicule and threats. He was arrested, imprisoned, and barely escaped with his life. Despite his faith in the Lord, he witnessed the inconceivable—the defeat of Judah as a nation, the sacking of his beloved Jerusalem, and even worse, the destruction of God's holy temple. We don't know how his life ended, but the last we see of him in the scriptures, his fellow Jews were still scorning his godly advice.

Where is the gospel?

How could all these terrible things happen to Jeremiah when God promised to deliver him from his opponents? Much the same way that Jesus, the only sinless, perfect man who ever lived, could be arrested and tortured to death like a criminal, and how the Author and Sustainer of life could be put to death by wicked humanity. The reality is that although in this world we have many trials and sorrows, we can face them all with confidence because our Savior has overcome this world (John 16:33). The fact that we can never lose the security that we have through Jesus is what takes away fear. (Rom 8:26-39) We can face anything because Jesus already faced all of it for us. His perfect love is what casts out fear.

Jesus promises eternal blessings to all who say "Yes" to Him, but He warns us to expect many difficulties along the way. The sovereign God who calls us to join Him in His work of redemption also provides our every need for every task He assigns us. Through faith, we can see that everything in this world is temporary—both the things we love and the things we dread—and that frees us from fear. He protects us from any harm that doesn't serve His eternal purposes, and His Spirit empowers us to speak His truth in even the most difficult situations. The victory He gives us often doesn't look like what we expect, but victory is certain. And it's always perfect and complete.

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: Have I ever felt the Holy Spirit urging me to do something, but I didn't do it because of fear? When thinking of what God might call me to do, what fills me with dread? What do I value more than obeying God's call? How is the Holy Spirit challenging me to think and to live differently? How does this truth change my perspective today? How is God calling me to respond based on this scripture?

Spend some time reading and meditating on these truths as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word. Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scriptures: Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-13; 49:23b; Jeremiah 15:20-21; John 16:33; Acts 4:13; Romans 8:26-39; Philippians 1:28-30; 2:13; 4:12-13; 1 John 5:3-5. What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19
and meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word
translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-
for-thought perspective. (The New Living
Translation is particularly helpful with this
passage)

Try to summarize the passage in your
own words.

**Every verse of scripture points to the
gospel. Look for how this passage
points to Jesus and what He has done.**

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your
group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer
all of these as a group

**What is significant, surprising or
confusing from these verses?**

**What seems to be the main point of
this letter?**

**How does this portion of scripture
point to Jesus and the gospel?**

**What parts of this passage are
challenging to your current way of
thinking?**

**What did you discover or learn about
God and His character from this
passage?**

**What parts of this passage can you
relate to?**

**Look at one or two key words and
define them really clearly, then look at
them in context with that definition.
Does this change your understanding?**

**Why did God bring me to this scripture
today?**

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**How is God calling you to obey, based
on this passage?**

or

What is your "I will" statement?

(Encourage everyone to steer clear of
"we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

**With whom are you going to share
what you have learned?**

(This is a critical part of growth that is
often overlooked. If we can share it with
someone else it means we really
understand it, it cements it in our own
minds, it makes us accountable to the
truth and it blesses the one who hears it.
Rom 10:17)

**Based on this passage, what can we
pray about and how should we pray?**