

# BROKEN PEOPLE FAITHFUL GOD

## A STUDY ON JEREMIAH

### STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, October 19, 2025

**Teaching Title:** Difference Makers

**Key Scripture:** Jeremiah 1:1–19

CEDAR VALLEY

### 5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

**Monday:** Jeremiah 1

**Tuesday:** Jeremiah 2

**Wednesday:** Jeremiah 3–4

**Thursday:** Jeremiah 5

**Friday:** Jeremiah 6

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's word, what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

### MEMORY TOPIC:

Confidence in God

**MEMORY VERSE:** Jeremiah 1:8 NLT

And don't be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken!"

### LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

#### Introduction:

In Jeremiah 1, we are introduced to the young prophet Jeremiah, whom God set apart in 626 BC, to deliver a message of repentance and judgment to the southern kingdom of Judah. The people of Judah, like those in the northern kingdom of Israel before them, had rejected the Lord and turned to other gods. Like Moses, Jeremiah felt inadequate for this calling. He believed he was too young. But God reminded him that He had intentionally created Jeremiah to be a prophet for His glory. We often feel the same way, inadequate, or insignificant. We may ask, "Who am I, and why would God even bother with someone like me?" But the excuses we make—too young, too old, too broken—don't define us; God's presence does. God promised Jeremiah, "I will be with you," and He makes the same promise to us today. Our confidence doesn't come from our own abilities or talents, it comes from knowing that God is with us. From Jeremiah's story, we learn that God made us on purpose, God is with us, God wants to speak and act through us, and God strengthens us for the struggle. Making a difference isn't about self-confidence, it's about God-confidence.

\*See Notes & Digging Deeper below for background information on the book of Jeremiah.

#### Questions:

Ice Breaker: What's the absolute worst job you can imagine having? What makes it so awful?

1. Read Jeremiah 1 together as a group. What do you learn about God in this passage?
2. In 1:6, Jeremiah gives an excuse to God, saying he is too young for the assignment God has given him. What are some excuses we use today to disqualify ourselves from being used by God?
3. In verses 7–8, God tells Jeremiah not to be afraid and promises that He will be with him. How does remembering that God is with us change the way we view our fears or feelings of inadequacy?
4. God gave Jeremiah two visions to strengthen him for the task ahead (1:11–15). How do you think these two visions equipped or encouraged him?

5. In Jeremiah 1:17–19, God uses three metaphors to describe how He will strengthen and support Jeremiah. What do these metaphors communicate about how God will help him?
6. What fear or excuse tends to hold you back from stepping into God's calling? Based on this passage, how is God inviting you to respond to these challenges?
7. Below is a reminder of the challenge Pastor Neal gave us for this week. Pray through these together as a group:
  1. Start each day remembering you're made on purpose. Wake up and say, "God, thank You that You made me for a reason today."
  2. Trade your excuses for God's promises. When you catch yourself saying, "I can't," immediately follow it with, "But God is with me."
  3. Stand strong where it's hardest. Whether at work, in your family, or when life feels overwhelming—lean into God's strength instead of giving up.

## NOTES

### Intro to Jeremiah from Sunday's message:

- Jeremiah lived about 600 years before Jesus, during one of the darkest times in Israel's history.
- We know that he was a priest from the town of Anathoth, in the land of Benjamin.
- His primary audience was the people of Judah, more specifically, the people of Jerusalem.
- Jeremiah began preaching messages of repentance during the reign of King Josiah.
  1. Josiah was the last of the good kings in Judah.
  2. He followed a wicked king and began cleaning up idol worship in the temple and addressing many other sinful practices.
  3. It's important to notice that the Lord first gave Jeremiah messages during the 13th year of King Josiah's reign.
    - During that time, as Josiah led change, things began to improve in Judah, and God was blessing them. But eventually, the people grew lazy and complacent, and their old habits began to creep back in.
  4. After Josiah, his son Jehoiakim became king, followed by his brother Zedekiah.
    - Then, in the eleventh year of King Zedekiah's reign, despite repeated warnings, the people, were finally punished. Just as Jeremiah had warned them, they were taken captive by the Babylonians.

### Jeremiah had been given a huge task:

- He was commissioned by God to call the people to return to Him and repent for breaking their covenant and turning to idolatry.
- He was to deliver God's message that, because of their wickedness, the kingdom of Judah would face famine and eventually be conquered by the Babylonian Empire. They would be taken into exile.
- Jeremiah witnessed and recorded the actual siege and destruction of Jerusalem.
- Even though Jeremiah's message was heavily focused on judgement, it wasn't without hope. He also spoke of future restoration, prophesying that the people would one day return to the land.

## DIGGING DEEPER

When reading Jeremiah, readers will eventually notice that the book is not written in chronological order. There is no scholarly consensus on how the book was composed or why lacks a clear timeline. But, we do get a clue in chapter 36 that the scribe Baruch collected Jeremiah's words as he delivered them. The final form of the book reveals some major structural divisions and themes that are helpful to keep in mind while reading. Old Testament scholar J. Andrew Dearman summarizes:

"The book begins with God's promise to make Jeremiah a prophet to the nations (ch. 1), and it ends with oracles about other nations (chs. 46–51) and another report about the fall of Judah (ch. 52, the fall is described in detail in ch. 39). Thus, the themes of 'prophet to the nations' describes the stance of the book as a whole and its portrait of Jeremiah. The fate of Judah—which takes center stage through most of the book—is set in the context of God's lordship over all the nations. The God who called Israel as a people is none other than the Creator of the world and moral Judge of all nations."

### The book of Jeremiah can be divided into two major sections:

**1–25** Poetry, prose, and sermons describing the judgments against Israel and Judah.

**26–52** Three Subdivisions:

**26–36** | Chapters 26 & 36 bookend the section with themes of rejection of God's word while the middle chapters (30–31) offer a message of hope, looking beyond the historical disaster to a future renewal.

**27–34** | The fall of Jerusalem and its aftermath.

**46–52** | Oracles against other nations, and the fall of Judah.