

# BROKEN PEOPLE FAITHFUL GOD

## A STUDY ON JEREMIAH

### STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, November 16, 2025

**Teaching Title:** When Obedience Hurts

**Key Scripture:** Jeremiah 20:1–18

CEDAR VALLEY

### 5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

**Monday:** Jeremiah 28–29

**Tuesday:** Jeremiah 30

**Wednesday:** Jeremiah 31

**Thursday:** Jeremiah 32

**Friday:** Jeremiah 33

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:

Honesty with God

**MEMORY VERSE:** Luke 9:23 NLT

Then He said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me.

### LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

#### Introduction:

Jeremiah had been given a difficult task by God. In Jeremiah 1, God tells Jeremiah that He appointed him to be a prophet to the nations, but the people of Judah didn't listen to him. They resisted God and hardened their hearts. Jeremiah warns them that God will discipline them for their disobedience if they don't change their ways. He even warns of the coming destruction of Jerusalem because of their disobedience. In Jeremiah 20, Pashur, the chief officer in the temple and second to the high priest, was furious at Jeremiah's message. So Pashur had Jeremiah beaten and publicly humiliated. Jeremiah had obeyed God, but where did that get him? It got him beaten! What follows is a lament, or a complaint to God by Jeremiah. He brings his honest, raw emotions to God in prayer. Real faith doesn't hide the hurt; it brings it honestly to God.

#### Questions:

Ice Breaker: If you could learn one new skill, what would it be and why?

1. Read Jeremiah 20:1–18 together as a group. What are your initial impressions of Jeremiah's complaint to God?
2. In Jeremiah 20:1–7, Jeremiah is beaten and publicly disgraced by religious people *inside* the temple, not outsiders. Why does pain from people inside the church often hurt more deeply?
3. In Jeremiah 20:7–8, what emotions do you hear in Jeremiah's lament?
4. Is it wrong to express disappointment with God? Why or why not?
5. Reread Jeremiah 20:9–10. What do these verses tell us about his calling? What do you think Jeremiah felt here? How can we support people who are faithful to God but facing opposition?
6. In Jeremiah 20:11–13, Jeremiah's lament makes a quick shift to worship. How can deep and honest lament lead to deeper worship and understanding of God?

7. In Jeremiah 20:14–18, Jeremiah returns to what seems to be an even deeper depression. Why do you think this is included in Scripture? What does it tell us about God and His willingness to listen to our deepest pain? (See Notes & Digging Deeper)
8. What's one area in your life where obedience currently hurts? How is God calling you to respond to Him?

## NOTES

Question #7—

From Sunday's message: "Faith isn't pretending you're fine—it's trusting God enough to tell Him you're not... Depth isn't measured by positivity—it's measured by honesty in God's presence."

## DIGGING DEEPER

Question #7—

In Jeremiah 11–20, Jeremiah's anger and despair come in intervals that are often called "laments" or "complaints" (11:18–23; 12:1–6; 15:10–14, 15–21; 17:14–18; 18:18–23; 20:7–13, 14–18). Jeremiah's lamentations follow the model of individual laments in the Psalms.

W. David O. Taylor wrote a book about the Psalms called *Open and Unafraid*. Just like the psalms, Jeremiah's prayer in chapter 20 teaches us to be honest with God. Here are some thoughts from Taylor's book about praying honestly in the psalms:

*"When Adam and Eve sinned, their first impulse was to hide. In making clothes for themselves, they hid their bodies. When they heard the sound of their Maker's voice, they hid from God. In their telltale lies, they hid from the truth, and in their mutual accusations, they hid from each other. All the ways in which Adam and Eve hid resulted in one thing: their dehumanization..."*

*What the psalms offer us is a powerful aid to un-hide: to stand honestly before God without fear, to face one another vulnerably without shame, and to encounter life in the world without any of the secrets that would demean and distort our humanity. The psalms, then, are for those who know that they spend much of their life hiding secrets; they are also for those who know that standing in the presence of God 'is the one place where such secrets cannot and must not be hidden.'...*

*We become whole by praying our honest joys and our honest sorrows. We pray our honest praise of God and our honest anger at God; we pray also for honest speech in our words to God... When we do this, we find ourselves praying freely to God, in a way that frees us."*

—Taylor, W. David O., *Open & Unafraid: The Psalms as a Guide to Life*. Nelson Books: Nashville, 2020.