

## Memory Verse Challenge from the Book of Jeremiah

- Optional exercise
- Each week memorize a verse from the book of Jeremiah.
- Facilitator will need to have index cards on hand. As the class gathers, students will write down their memory verse of the week (use the index cards from the facilitator only and turn in to the facilitator).
- Have one volunteer recite out loud the memory verse of the week.

## Memory Verse Challenge – Book of Jeremiah

First Class	None	
Lesson 2	Jeremiah 1:5	Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.
Lesson 3	Jeremiah 6:10	No one is like you, O Lord, you are great, and your name is mighty in power.
Lesson 4	Jeremiah 10:23	I know, O Lord that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps.
Lesson 5	Jeremiah 13:23	Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the Leopard its spot? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.
Lesson 6	Jeremiah 17:14	Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed, save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.
Lesson 7	Jeremiah 20:13	Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.
Lesson 8	Jeremiah 20:9a	But if I say, I will not mention him or speak any more in his name, his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones.
Lesson 9	Jeremiah 29:11	For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Lesson 10	Jeremiah 33:3	Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.
Lesson 11	Jeremiah 32:15	In those days and at that time, I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.
Lesson 12	Jeremiah 17:5	Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose ear turns away from the Lord.
Lesson 13	Jeremiah 17:7	But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.
Lesson 14	Jeremiah 9:23	This is what the Lord says: Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me.
Lesson 15	Jeremiah 15:16	When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty.
Lesson 15	Jeremiah 32:26	Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?
Lesson 16	Jeremiah 17:9	The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?
Lesson 17	Jeremiah 17:10	I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct.
Lesson 18	Last class	

# Jeremiah

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# Book of Jeremiah

## Outline

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- Lesson 4 Warnings and Exhortations to Judah – Earliest Discourses (Chapters 2-6)
- Lesson 5 Temple Message (Chapters 7-10)
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- Lesson 14 Suffering and Persecutions of the Prophet (Chapters 36-38)
- Lesson 15 The Fall of Jerusalem and Its Aftermath (Chapters 39-45)
- Lesson 16 Judgment against the Nations (Chapters 46-51)
  - Against Egypt (46)
  - Against Philistia (47)
  - Against Moab (48)
  - Against Ammon (49:1-6)
  - Against Edom (49:7-22)
  - Against Damascus (49:23-27)
  - Against Kedar and Hazor (Arabia) (49:28-33)
  - Against Elam (29:34-39)
  - Against Babylon (50-51)
- Lesson 17 Judgment against Nations continued
- Lesson 18 Historical Appendix (Chapter 52)

## **Overview**

Through this book contains the words of Jeremiah, it also contains the word of the LORD. This prophecy, like all inspired Scripture, is the word of man and the word of God. It is the divinely inspired and infallible word of God but brought through the personality of man.

## Lesson 1: Introduction - Meeting Jeremiah the prophet

Jeremiah was born during the reign of King Manasseh, the most evil man who ever reigned over the kingdom of Judah (2 Kings 21:1-18). The son of godly Hezekiah, Manasseh came to the throne when only twelve years old, and the officials around him easily influenced him toward idolatry. "Manasseh seduced them (the people of Judah) to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel" (v. 9) When Manasseh died, his evil son Amon continued his father's evil practices. Thus, Jeremiah grew up in a time when idolatry flourished in Judah, children were offered in sacrifice to idols, the law of Moses was disregarded and disobeyed, and it looked as though there was no hope for the nation. Godly priests were not greatly appreciated.

*Utilizing the following scripture references, search out a list of facts about Jeremiah so we will know the man whom we will meet in this book.*

1. 1:4
2. 1:5
3. 1:6
4. 1:9-10
5. 1:10
6. 2 Chronicles 35:25
7. 16:1-4
8. 11:18-21; 12:6, 18:18, 10-1-3, Jeremiah 37:11-16
  
9. 9:1
10. 20:9
11. 42:15-43:3
12. Jeremiah 43:6-7
  
13. Looking at your compiled list, what kind of person do you think Jeremiah was?
  
14. What aspects of the Book of Jeremiah are you most looking forward to studying? Are there specific questions that you hope to have answered in this study?
  
15. Based on your current understanding of Jeremiah, what are some of its key themes?

## Lesson 2: Theological Themes and Messages, Literary Features

1. Jeremiah was ever conscious of his call from the Lord (1:5; 15-19). As such he proclaimed words given him by God Himself (19:2) and therefore certain of their fulfillment. How is this portrayed in the following two verses?
  - a. 28:9
  - b. 32:24
  
2. Poetic repetition was used by Jeremiah with particular skill. How is this represented in the following verses?
  - a. 4:23-26
  - b. 51:20-23
  
3. Jeremiah understood the effectiveness of repeating a striking phrase over and over. How does he portray this in the following verses?
  - a. 14:12
  - b. 21:7, 9
  - c. 24:10
  - d. 27:8,13
  - e. 29:17-18
  
4. Jeremiah is the longest book in the Bible, containing more words than any other book. A creator of beautiful phrases, he has given us an abundance of memorable passages. Observe the following verses.
  - a. 2:26-28
  - b. 9:23-24
  - c. 29:13
  - d. 29:11
  - e. 15:20

What other memorable passages in the Book of Jeremiah that comes to your mind?

5. Like Ezekiel, Jeremiah was often instructed to use symbolism to highlight his message. Look up and explain the meaning of the examples Jeremiah is using in the following verses.

a. 13:1-11

b. 19:1-12

d. 43:8-13

f. 16:1-4

g. 16:5-9

h. 32:6-15

6. Similarly, the Lord used visual aids in conveying his message to Jeremiah: potter's clay (18:1-10). Two baskets of figs (Chapter 24). Explain his use in these verses.

### **Lesson 3: Call of the Prophet (Read Chapter 1)**

Read the whole chapter of Jeremiah Chapter 1 and answer the following questions keeping in mind the information we gathered on facts about Jeremiah.

2. Jeremiah was the son of a priest. The Bible records the people God uses as coming from different backgrounds. Remember Gideon for example. Can you recall the kind of background he came from? (Judges 6:11-15) What does this tell us about the people God can use?
  
3. Jeremiah was called the “weeping prophet”, a “cry baby”, a man in tears most of the time. Candidly speaking, would you have chosen a man like this to deliver a harsh message of judgment? Why or why not? Why was Jeremiah really called the “weeping prophet”.
  
4. What message do you think God was sending to the children of Israel by sending a man of Jeremiah’s person?
  
5. Jeremiah thought he had the perfect excuse to avoid the call of God. (Jer. 1:4-6) Have you ever talked yourself out of doing what is right by focusing on your weaknesses or your perceived inabilities? What excuses do we use to avoid doing the things we should?
  
6. What did God tell Jeremiah not to be? (1:8, 19) Why is fear such a paralyzing factor? Can you recall anyone else in the Bible that God told not to be afraid?
  
7. The Lord touched the mouth of Jeremiah with his hand (1:9). God also touched the mouth of Isaiah (Isa 6:5-7). What was the Lord’s purpose for the touch?

8. Jeremiah's call was to prophesy at a time when all things in Judah was on a downward spiral, headed to catastrophe and ruin, would you consider that we are living in a time such as the time of Jeremiah? Give examples.
  
9. In verse 16, what did God identify as some of Israel's faults? Are these faults prevalent today and specifically what are they? See question 7.
  
10. As we have discussed before, Jeremiah uses a lot of imagery or poetic language. What does Jeremiah mean when he says he sees the "branch of the almond tree? What is the other image in verse 13 and what is its meaning?
  
11. Jeremiah had two reasons for being afraid. What are they? What was God's promise to Jeremiah in vv 17-19? Then why was he termed the "weeping prophet?
  
12. Jeremiah preached to God's people for forty years, giving them God's promises and warnings; and he lived to see Jerusalem and the temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar's army and his people taken captive to Babylon, Given the fact that God's people were eventually taken into captivity, was Jeremiah's prophetic life a failure? Explain.

## Lesson 4: Warnings and Exhortations to Judah – Earliest Discourses (Read Chapters 2-6)

When the Lord gave the Israelites His covenant at Mount Sinai (Ex 19-20), He entered into a loving relationship with them that He compared to marriage. “They broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them” (Jer. 31:32; 3:14). In the Old Testament, Israel’s idolatry is compared to adultery and even prostitution (See Isa. 54:5; Hos. 2:19). At the beginning of this covenant relationship, the Jews were devoted to the Lord and loved Him, but once they conquered the Promised Land, their hearts lusted after the gods of the nations around them and they sank into idolatry (Judg 1-3). Although God had taken them safely through their wilderness journey and given them a wonderful inheritance in Canaan, they abandoned Him for man-made gods.

1. Jeremiah uses a lot of imagery and poetic language in Chapter 1 as well as in these following chapters. What does he mean by the following images?
  - Bride (2:2-3)
  - Broken Cisterns (2:13)
  - Slave by birth (2:14)
  - Prostitute (2:20)
  - Wild donkey (2:24)
2. What imagery or metaphor would you use to describe your relationship with God?

Now, what imagery do you think God would use to describe his relationship with you?

3. What was God’s charge against Judah? 3:6-10
4. What does it mean to commit “adultery with stones and trees” (3:9)?
5. In 3:7, what was God’s heart and desire towards those who had left him in disobedience? What does this tell us about the heart of God?

6. What other metaphors could be used to describe someone walking in disobedience? What imagery could be used to describe someone walking in obedience?
7. Read Jeremiah 5:1-2. What does God tell Jeremiah to do? Can you recall anyone else who God said to do a similar thing? Genesis 18:22-33
8. Read 5:1 again. Why do the good deeds of a few people matter to God? If God asked you to find ten people “who deal honestly and seek the truth”, do you think you would find enough people?
9. Read verses 5:10-13. Contrast Prophets and Prophets of Fire.
10. Read 6:3-15. Jeremiah had contempt for the false prophets. Aside from God’s warning of coming disaster, the prophets and priests were saying “Peace, Peace when there is no peace. Peace is a wonderful message to bring, and one that most people want to hear. List some ways people receive or have a false peace.
11. In spite of God’s warning and impending judgment, God still gave Judah the opportunity to receive wisdom in the midst of their circumstances. Read verses 6:16-17. What is God telling them to do?
12. Read verse 16 again. What are the four ways they are to position themselves to benefit from the old ways? Then what is the benefit of the old ways? What was Judah’s response?

## Lesson 5: Temple Message (Read Chapters 7-10)

The Jews knew that idolatry was wrong, but they were confident they had nothing to fear. After all, God would never permit anything terrible to happen to the city where His holy temple was located! Didn't Judah possess the law of Moses, and weren't the Jews the children of Abraham and the sons of the covenant? They were God's chosen people! With a religious heritage like that, no evil could ever fall on their Kingdom! God, however, had quite a different view of the matter. He commanded Jeremiah to go up to the temple and proclaim His message to the hypocritical people gathered there. Jeremiah rebuked the people for coming to the temple with wrong motives. In addition, altars to their idols were built in the temple of God. In this courageous sermon, the prophet exposed the nation's false worship (Jer. 7:1-8:3). Their false prophets (8:4-22), their false confidence in the covenant they were disobeying (9:1-26), and the false gods they were worshipping (10:1-25). In other words, Jeremiah dealt with their sinful mistreatment of the temple, the law, the covenant, and the Lord Himself. It wasn't a popular message to deliver, and it almost cost him his life!

1. In Jeremiah's courageous sermon, what did he expose? 7:1-8:3; 8:4-22; 9:1-26; 10:1-25
  
2. What must it have been like for Jeremiah to go right into the heart of the conflict to speak to God's people?
  
3. Why do you think God sent him to the temple instead of having him speak in a more neutral site?
  
4. What were the four indictments Jeremiah preached against the people at the temple? Jer. 7:1-15, 16-20, 21-26; 7:27-8:3.
  
5. After these indictments, why did the nation not turn back to God? Explain Jeremiah's analogies.
  - a. Jeremiah 8:4-7
  
  - b. Jeremiah 8:8-12

6. When Judah would not listen, what did God declare? Keep in mind the images and symbolism Jeremiah uses.

a. 8:13

b. 8:17

c. 8:19

d. 8:14

e. 9:15

7. Why were the Jews so stubborn to obey God? Presently, are we like the Jews .. stubborn to obey God?

8. Why was idolatry so prevalent in Old Testament times? What causes people to create and follow idols? What are the popular idols in today's world?

## Lesson 6: Covenant and Conspiracy (Read Chapters 11-13)

1. Read Chapter 11. What is a covenant and what were the terms of the covenant God spoke to Judah? See also Exodus 24:1-8.
2. What were Judah's response to the terms of the covenant? What was God's response to Judah's response?
3. In what ways was Jeremiah's own response to God (Jer. 11:5) an example of the way Israel was supposed to respond to God's covenant?
4. The Lord said there is a conspiracy among the people of Judah and those who live in Jerusalem? What is the first conspiracy? Was the first conspiracy really a literal conspiracy given Jeremiah's use of metaphors and images? 11:18-12:6

What was the second conspiracy? (11:18-12:6)? What prompted this conspiracy?

5. Read 11:14. Are you shocked at God's instruction to Jeremiah? Contrast this response to what the false gods would do.
6. Read 12:1-6. What is the theological crisis Jeremiah is now struggling with? What answer did Jeremiah seem to want from God? Was this a crisis of faith for Jeremiah?
7. Jeremiah's theological dilemma did not stop him from following God, but it did cause him to consider what God was up to. What are some of the questions about God that puzzles or trouble you? How do you deal with knowing what God is up to?



## Lesson 7: Messages concerning the Drought (Read Chapters 14-15)

1. Jeremiah gave four messages about drought in Chapters 14 thru 17. Jeremiah's first message was about the drought (Jer. 14:1-22). Before we look at the first message, do some research and locate why drought was a special issue for ancient Israel and Judah.
2. Read Jeremiah 14:1-6. In your own words, explain this season of drought and the meaning of the metaphors and images Jeremiah is using in these verses.
3. Read Verse 14:9b. Is this a true statement or what is wrong with that comment? Review also verse 10. Did Judah's comment move God? Why or why not? Use the following scripture references to discuss Judah's mindset at this time and why God responded the way He did.

*"Rend your heart and not your garments" (Joel 2:13) was the prophet Joel's counsel to the Jews during another time of great calamity. And David, when he sought God's forgiveness, said, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise" (Ps. 51:17).*

4. Jeremiah had several messages in the name of the Lord to deliver to the people of Judah. Contrast Jeremiah's message with that of the false prophets. 14:11-16.
5. What is the proof to determine if someone was a true prophet? What are the dangers of giving too much credence to untested prophets?
6. Why would the people that listen to the false prophets be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem or suffer punishment?
7. Jeremiah's second message was a prophecy about the coming captivity (Jeremiah 15:1-21). Why should Jeremiah's prophecy about captivity have gotten the people's attention? How important was "place" to the Jews?



## Lesson 8: Disaster and Comfort (Read Chapters 16-17)

In order to get the attention of the people, God sometimes told the prophets to do unusual things. Isaiah gave two of his sons odd names, which he used as a text for a message and he also dressed like a prisoner of war to call attention to a coming conflict.

1. Read Jeremiah 16:1-9. Make a list of God's unusual commands to Jeremiah and give their meaning. Remember that the Book of Jeremiah use a great deal of symbolism and metaphors. May take some research.
2. Why did God forbid these things for Jeremiah? What message did this give the followers?
3. Read 16:10-11. Why was it important for the people to know the answer to the question they are asking?
4. There is a shift in v. 14-15. What is it? What was God's promise in v. 15?
5. Jeremiah was against the sins of his people, six of which he named in chapter 17.
  - 17:1-4
  - 17:5-10
  - 17:11
  - 17:12-13
  - 17:14-18
  - 17:19-27

6. Review the named sins listed above. Why do you think each of these sins was singled out? What does this say about the people's sinfulness? How prevalent are these sins today?
  
7. Why do you think the expression "a pen of iron" was used to describe the character and extent of Judah's sin?
  
8. In 17:5, The Lord says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man.....". Does this mean that this curse requires the special activity of God?
  
9. Explain in your own words how 17:6 explains question 8 above.
  
10. Read v9. Is trusting the heart just another way of trusting in man? Be specific.
  
11. Read v14. What is Jeremiah doing in this verse as opposed to v.5?
  
12. Why do you think God asked Jeremiah to deliver a message to the people on obeying the sabbath? There were so many other sins that had been identified. Why did they not heed God's word to hallow the Sabbath day? What would be the results of their disobedience?

## Lesson 9: Lessons from the Potter (Read Chapters 18-20)

1. Read Jeremiah 18:6-10. What does this passage tell us about the interpretation of the pottery image?
2. Read verses 11-17. In what ways is this application of the message directed to the individual?
3. What is the overall message of this prophecy?
4. Jeremiah proclaimed again God's impending judgment. What was the people's response to this message? vv 13-18?
5. Read Luke 12:1-7. How is the campaign against Jeremiah similar to what Jesus endured? How is the campaign against Jeremiah similar to what some leaders endure today? How is it different?
6. How did this campaign affect Jeremiah personally? (See Jer. 17:19-23)
7. Read the following passages: Ephesians 4:26; Psalm 97:10; Romans 12:9; Mark 3:5; and 2 Corinthians 11:29. What do these verses tell us about righteous anger? How is righteous anger different from regular anger? Is Jeremiah's anger a righteous anger? Why or why not?
8. At the command of the Lord, Jeremiah made a second trip to the potter's house. In 19:7 God began by saying "In this place I will ruin the plans of Judah and Jerusalem.....How did Jeremiah demonstrate this and what tool did he use?"



## Lesson 10: Condemnation of Kings, Prophets and People (Read Chapters 21-24)

Godly King Josiah reigned for thirty-one years and sought to lead the people back to God. But the last four kings of Judah were wicked men, even though three of them were Josiah's sons and one was his grandson (Jehoiachin). Jehoahaz or Shallum, succeeded Josiah and reigned only three months (Jer. 22:10-12; 2 Kings 23:30-33). Pharaoh Necho deported him to Egypt, where he died. Jehoiakim, also called Eliakim, reigned for 11 years (Jer. 22:13-23; 2 Kings 23:3-24:6) and died in Jerusalem. He was followed by his son Jehoiachin, also called Jeconiah and Coniah, whose reign last only three months. (Jer. 22:24-30; 2 King 2:6-12). Nebuchadnezzar took him to Babylon, where eventually he died. The last king of Judah was Zedekiah, who reigned eleven years and saw the kingdom and the Holy City destroyed by Babylon (Jer. 22:1-9; 2 Kings 24:17-25:21). He was blinded and taken to Babylon to die.

The Book of Jeremiah is not arranged chronologically. There is a substantial jump from the end of Jeremiah 20 to the start of Jeremiah 21. Jeremiah 20 ended in the reign of Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah, who reigned for 11 years. Jeremiah 21 fast forwards about 20 years, to the time when Babylonian armies are in Judah and Jerusalem is besieged. This episode, c. 588, transports us suddenly to the final siege of Jerusalem, some 20 years after the events of Chapter 20. In this period Judah and Jerusalem did not fall in one decisive battle; it happened in stages.

About 17 years before this Nebuchadnezzar first came to Jerusalem in the reign of King Jehoiakim and subjugated the city and took captives from the best and the brightest of Judah, such as Daniel (about 605 BC). About 10 years before this, Nebuchadnezzar came again in the reign of King Jehoiachin and carried away the treasures of Jerusalem taking more captive and he deposed King Jehoiachin (about 598 BC). He then put Zedekiah on the throne as a puppet king. By the time of Jeremiah 21 King Zedekiah's reign was almost over; Nebuchadnezzar returned a third time to destroy the city of Jerusalem and carry away the remaining people of Judah (about 586 BC).

Zedekiah was the third son of King Josiah. His older brothers Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim (and his nephew Jehoiachin) reigned before him.

1. Why do you suppose there were so many wicked kings during this period in biblical history? How would this have affected Jeremiah's work?
2. Read Jeremiah 21:1-14. In desperation looking to Jeremiah for help to see whether the prophet could get guidance from the Lord, the king hoped that God would send a miraculous deliverance to Jerusalem as He had done in the days of godly King Hezekiah, what was Jeremiah's response:
  - To the king - Jer. 21:3-7
  - To the people – Jer. 8-10
  - To the house of David – Jer. 11-14

3. What must it have been like for Jeremiah to deliver such difficult news instead of news of deliverance for the king?
4. Review the terms of the covenant God had with His people (See Deut. 29:23; 32:16-17, 21, Lev. 26:27-28). In what ways do these terms make God's use of words like anger, fury, and great wrath (Jer. 21:5) seem appropriate? How is God's fury different from a human's?
5. Read 21:8-10. Talking about a rock and a hard place, explain the way of life versus the way of death God put before them.
6. Read v10, why would it be foolish not to surrender to the Chaldeans?
7. Jeremiah continued the prophecy from the previous chapter, what was this specific message to the king? Jer 22:1-5.
8. Read Jeremiah 23:1-8. In what ways did the leaders of Judah exploit the people? What caused them to stop trusting God? How would Jeremiah's message of a coming Messiah have been received by the wayward nation?
9. Jeremiah 14:14 summarizes 12:9-40. What does this passage tell us about the false prophets?
10. Jeremiah needing encouragement about now, how did the vision of two baskets of figs sitting before the temple of God encourage Jeremiah?

11. Why do you suppose Jeremiah trusted God's nearness when so many people in Judah did not?

12. How would the prophecy of a future for the "godly remnant" have been an encouragement for some and discouragement for others?

## Lesson 11: Foretelling the Babylonian Exile (Read Chapters 25-29)

Jeremiah had been serving for twenty-three years when he delivered the messages recorded in chapters 25 and 26 (25:3; 26:1). He was called into prophetic service in the year 626 BC (1:2) and continued to minister after the call in Jerusalem in 587 BC, a period of over forty years. He was now at the midpoint of his career. When you consider the unsympathetic response of the people both to him and to his messages, you marvel that Jeremiah wasn't discouraged and ready to quit, but he continued to be faithful.

In Chapter 26 of Jeremiah we see he didn't alter the message in order to please the people. The false prophets preached what the people wanted to hear. God told Jeremiah, "Whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak (1:7). The people in the temple, however, encouraged by the priests and false prophets, rejected Jeremiah's message and treated him like a false prophet who deserved to die. To them, it was blasphemous for Jeremiah to declare that Jehovah would allow the Holy City and His holy temple to fall into the defiling and destructive hands of the heathen the way the ark at Shiloh fell into the hands of the Philistines (1 Sam. 4). Since God's covenant with David protected the city and the temple, It seemed Jeremiah was actually denying the covenant. He was believed to be leading the people astray and deserved to die (Deut. 18:20).

1. What was the message Jeremiah delivered to the Jews (Jer. 25:1-14)?
2. What was the message Jeremiah delivered to the Gentile nation (Jer. 25:15-38)?
3. Do you think Jeremiah was ever tempted to soften the message given in the temple? Why or Why not? Do today's speakers and leaders soften messages to keep from upsetting people? Explain.
4. Read Jeremiah 25:15. God again spoke to Jeremiah, "Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it". Given the use of symbolism and metaphors in the Book of Jeremiah, what is this meaning?
5. How is this cup similar to the cup Jesus drank? Explain.
6. Read Jeremiah 26. What is this particular word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord and where was it to be given?

7. How did the priests, the prophets and all the people respond to Jeremiah's message?
  
8. Read Jeremiah 27:1-2. What did the Lord say to Jeremiah about a yoke and what is its meaning?
  
9. Jeremiah also delivered the yoke message to the priests and the people (Jer. 27:16-22). What was the false prophets claiming?
  
10. How did Jeremiah end his message to the priests and people?
  
11. What was Jeremiah's word of encouragement in Chapter 29 (29:1-14)? What was his explanation (vv15-23)? What was the warning he gave (vv24-32)?

## Lesson 12: Promises of Restoration (Chapters 30-33)

Sometimes referred to as the Book of Comfort, this section of Jeremiah makes clear that judgment will not be the final word.

1. Why was it important for Jeremiah to write in a book all the words God had spoken to them? Jer. 30:2
2. How did Jeremiah use each of the following images to speak truth to God's people about their present circumstances?
  - The yoke (Jer. 30:4-11)
  - The healed wound (vv. 12-17)
  - The calm after the storm (vv. 18-24)
3. Expound on the promises of God and what He is going to do. Refer to the following passages.
  - Jeremiah 30:1-24
  - Jeremiah 31:1-40
  - Jeremiah 32:1-44
  - Jeremiah 33:1-26
4. Why is exiled Judah personified as Rachel (Jacob's favorite wife; Gen. 29:30)? Jer. 31:15
5. Explain in your own words vv 29-32? Where else in the Bible are these verses found?
6. What is the new covenant described in Jeremiah 31:31-40? Why did the covenant need to be renewed from time to time? What does this say about God's people? About God Himself?

7. Read Jeremiah 32:2-15. While Jeremiah is under arrest by order of King Zedekiah, what did God command Jeremiah to do? What is Jeremiah's response? What does this narrative say to you in the way of encouragement?
  
8. How do Christians today share in the new covenant described in Jeremiah? (See Heb. 8:6-13; 10:14-18).
  
9. The basic theme of Jeremiah's prayer in 32:26-44 is "Nothing is too hard for you" (v 17). Where did Jeremiah get such confidence?
  
10. In Jeremiah 33, while still confined, the Lord came to Jeremiah a second time. Summarize the message.
  
11. Read 33:14-17. Who is this passage alluding to?

## Lesson 13: Historical Appendix (Read Chapters 34-35)

In spite of the longsuffering of God and the faithful ministry of God's prophets, the kingdom of Judah was about to die. It was a nation with a glorious heritage-laws given from heaven by Moses, a land conquered by Joshua, a kingdom established by David and made magnificent by Solomon, a people in whose midst Jehovah dwelt in a splendid temple and yet that glorious heritage couldn't prevent Judah's shameful ruin at the hands of the idolatrous Babylonians. The end had come. What caused Judah's slow decay and final collapse? The historian would point to their unwise politics, particularly depending on Egypt for help, and we can't deny that Judah's leaders made some stupid decisions. But behind their unwise politics was a more insidious reason: The leaders really didn't believe the word of God. During the dramatic rise and fall of empires in that stormy era, Judah looked around for allies instead of looking for divine assistance. Instead of repenting and turning to God, they hardened their hearts against the Word and trusted their own wisdom.

1. Thus far, what do the events we have studied teach us about how we treat God and how our treatment of God affects the world in which we live?
2. Read 34:8-16. How do King Zedekiah and the people of Judah respond to Jeremiah's message? What is God's response when Judah returns to its old ways (34:17-22)?
3. As an aside, some people think that the Bible is responsible for slavery. What do you think?
4. As an expression of the covenant Judah made with God, the leaders cut a calf in half and walked between the two parts (34:18). What does this symbolic act mean? What is the significance of the fact that in Genesis 15:9-20 only God walks between the animal pieces?
5. Who are the Rechabites (may require research)? When Jeremiah offers the Rechabites wine, why do they refuse to drink it? (Consider their response in light of Num. 6:1-4).
6. What lessons does God teach based on the Rechabites obedience to their ancestor Jonadab (Jer. 35:12-18)? What does he promise the Rechabites in light of their obedience?

7. What are some of the promises Christians make today because of tough times? Do most people do this out of sincerity, or out of fear?
  
8. How does God respond to unfulfilled promises?

## Lesson 14: Suffering and Persecutions of the Prophet (Read Chapters 36-38)

1. Why was it necessary for Jeremiah to write down the word of the Lord?
2. Make a list of the differences in the Lord's message Jeremiah's first wrote down in Chapter 30 and the Lord's message in Chapter 36.
3. How do the people and the officials respond to the reading of God's word read to them by Baruch? (vv. 9-19)? How did the king respond (vv 20-26)? What does God promise to do to Jehoiakim for his disregard for God's word?
4. What did Jeremiah do in light of the destruction of the scroll?
5. Although we might not tear out pages from our Bibles, what are some ways we show a dismissive attitude toward God's Word?
6. Read the following passages and explain in your own words how and why God's Word cannot be dismissed. Please feel free to add other passages you are familiar with.
  - Isa. 40:8
  - Ps. 119:89
  - Matt. 5:18
  - Matt. 24:35
7. What additional hardship Jeremiah the Prophet will face?

8. In what ways is Jeremiah's experience similar to that of Joseph (Genesis 37-50) and Daniel (Dan. 6:1-28)?
  
9. Compare this pattern with Jesus's experience in Matthew 26-28. How do individuals like Joseph, Daniel, and Jeremiah point forward to Christ?
  
10. Read Jer. 39:11-18. How is Jeremiah's vindication a fulfillment of God's promises to him in 1:18-10? How is this encouragement for you?

## Lesson 15: The Fall of Jerusalem and Its Aftermath (Read Chapters 39-45)

Jeremiah 40-45 recounts the aftermath of the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. While most residents were taken to exile in Babylon, some (mostly the poorest of the people) were left behind to scratch out an existence as best they could. Rather than submit to their Babylonian rulers, however, those who remained in Judah rebelled (Jer. 40:1-41:18). As their rebellion leads them to seek refuge in Egypt, God makes it clear that the people are rebelling ultimately against Him. (42:1-45:5)

1. Despite a final warning from Jeremiah 38:14-18, review what happens to Jerusalem and King Zedekiah 39:1-10).
2. Despite Nebuchadnezzar's command that Jeremiah be treated kindly (Jer. 39:11-12), what happens to Jeremiah? What choice does the captain of the guard give Jeremiah, and why is he given this choice? What does Jeremiah decide to do?
3. The Babylonians appoint Gedaliah as governor of those remaining in the land. What instructions does Gedaliah give to the people (40:7-12)?
4. What is the significance of gathering wine, summer fruits, and oil?
5. Explain the events in the following passages.
  - Jer 41:1-3
  - Ammon 41:4-10
  - 41:1-18
6. Read 42:1-6. He's back! What does Johanan ask Jeremiah to do? How do the people promise to respond to Jeremiah's instruction?

7. Ten days later, Jeremiah has another word from the Lord. Not another one! What is this particular message? Jer. 42:7-22. Consider 42:6. Now what are the people's response to Jeremiah's message? 43:1-7.
8. Read 43:8-13. Yes, God has another message for the people. What is it?
9. Sometime later the Lord speaks to the Judean exiles living in Egypt (44:1-14). What practices of these exiles does God condemn? What reminders does He give?
10. How do the people respond to God's message through Jeremiah (44:15-19)? What do the people resolve to do?
11. Read 44:1-30. What does this section teach us about the nature and effects of idolatry? How have you seen these effects in your own life?

## Lesson 16 Judgment against the Nations (Read Chapters 46-51)

- Against Egypt (46)
- Against Philistia (47)
- Against Moab (48)
- Against Ammon (49:1-6)
- Against Edom (49:7-22)
- Against Damascus (49:23-27)
- Against Kedar and Hazor (Arabia) (49:28-33)
- Against Elam (49:34-39)
- Against Babylon (50-51)

## **Lesson 17 Judgment against the Nations continued (46-51)**

*Continued from the previous week. Group assignments on judgment against the nations.*

## Lesson 18: Historical Appendix (Read Chapter 52)

Several commentators believe this final chapter was authored by Jeremiah, but perhaps by Baruch. It testifies to the truthfulness and integrity of Jeremiah's long, faithful work as a prophet of God. Nearly every verse of Jeremiah 52 is a fulfilled prophecy. In fact, reading the chapter is a good way to review the entire book of Jeremiah.

Despite the heavy emphasis on judgment throughout the book, Jeremiah describes the glorious promise of future redemption. God will restore his people to the land and establish a new covenant with them. Through a descendent of David, God will rule over his people in righteousness, do away with their sins, and write his law on their hearts. As believers we participate in that new covenant through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

1. One of the things God does throughout this last section of Jeremiah is hold nations accountable for their actions. What is God saying to us as a nation?
2. Are we, as a nation, responding to God and His word as the people in the Book of Jeremiah did?
3. What surprised you most about the prophecies in Jeremiah?
4. What amazed you most about God during this study?
5. What amazed you most about God's people during this study?
6. What have you learned in Jeremiah that should lead you to praise God, turn away from sin, and trust more firmly in his promises?