

# forLIFE

## DAY 1

### READ HEBREWS 10:23-25, 35-39.

In Jeremiah's life, we clearly see that his relationship and commitment to God was **for LIFE**. During this time when so many professing Christians fluctuate in their faith and commitment to God, Jeremiah serves as a powerful role model. God wants a lifetime relationship with us.

When you think about the words **for LIFE**, there's a notion of permanency. This defines you now and for always. Would you describe your relationship and commitment to God in this way? Why, or why not? As we study Jeremiah, we'll discover that his life wasn't easy. He's often referred to as the 'weeping prophet.'

Have you experienced a time when circumstances or struggles resulted in the waning of your own faith and relationship with God? If so, **DESCRIBE** what it was like. How could approaching things (*whether struggles, doubts, pain, or even times of contentment*) with the attitude and commitment that you're in it with God **for LIFE** make a difference?

## DAY 2

### RE-READ HEBREWS 10:23, 35-36.

What rewards are mentioned in those verses? What blessings or gifts have you witnessed in the life of someone who lived faithfully "for a lifetime?" Verse 23 tells us we'll be richly rewarded and will receive what the Lord has promised. **LIST** the blessings God has promised us as His children. **CONSIDER** using a Bible concordance to look up words, promises and/or blessings.

***"There are gifts that are known only to those who persevere."  
"A lifetime of faithfulness is its own reward."***

Why would there be gifts that only those who persevere receive? What might those gifts or blessings be?

**DESCRIBE** how actually experiencing and living out a lifetime of faithfulness could be considered a reward in itself.

## DAY 3 & DAY 4

### READ JEREMIAH 1:11-19.

Jeremiah was called to give a message of judgment to people whose hearts were hard. God revealed to him that these people would fight against him, and would refuse to listen.

It's not easy to follow God for a lifetime. It never has been. Countless people serve God for a season, but a much smaller crowd pursues Him for the duration of their lives. Since sin entered our world, following God has been a swim against the current. Jeremiah swam upstream, but God was with him every stroke of the way.

**REFLECT** and **WRITE** your responses to the following questions:

- \* How do I stay faithful when I know it will get worse before it gets better?
- \* How do I stay faithful when things don't go as I expect?
- \* How do I stay faithful for a lifetime when it's easier to "go with the flow?"

After you've written your thoughts, **ASK** God to use Jeremiah's life to speak to your own faithfulness. **ASK** for wisdom and understanding as we 'walk with' Jeremiah over the next several weeks. **PRAY** for a lifetime of personal faith and commitment to God.

## DAY 5

### READ JEREMIAH 2:10-13.

Why did God send judgment? What was the heart of the reason? With just the turn of a knob, we have access to fresh, clean drinking water. **IMAGINE** having that access but choosing to go outside to dig a hole in the back yard to catch rainwater to drink instead. We'd never do that!

Why would we chose to drink dirty, contaminated water with access to clean, fresh drinking water? To show Jeremiah what the people have done, that's the picture God painted. They've refused to rely on God - to trust and follow Him. Instead, they've sought hope, peace, salvation, and fulfillment from other things. They've turned from God and His provisions and dug their own cisterns.

In what ways have you "dug your own cistern?" In your life, whom/what are you trusting or following other than God? On whom do you depend for your hope, salvation, peace, fulfillment? What do these verses say about the cisterns which the people had dug for themselves?

Mignon McLaughlin says that whatever we worship, short of God, is sure to be our undoing. Any cistern we dig in our lives instead of drawing from God and His provisions for us will be our undoing and will lead us away from God and His purposes in and for our lives.

**ASK** God to reveal the people or things you rely on other than God... the cisterns you've dug for yourself.

**PRAY:** Father, forgive me when I look to other people and things for what You alone can provide. Help me persevere to follow You today, tomorrow, and for a lifetime.