

forLIFE

DAY 1

God has a purpose for us that's far greater than ourselves.

READ JEREMIAH 1:4-10.

From these verses, what do we learn about Jeremiah? About God?

READ EPHESIANS 2:10. What do we learn about ourselves?

What does it mean to you that God knows you and planned for you?

That He's designed you for a specific purpose?

DAY 2

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20 & PSALM 139:13-16.

We are planned, designed, chosen, and have a purpose... but we are not our own. Before Jeremiah had any say in the matter, he'd been given away.

"I appointed you as a prophet to the nations," God says. This should give us a sense of being on assignment, rather than choosing our own path.

How do you feel about this God who's so actively involved in our lives?

SPEND time today reflecting on whether you've obeyed or shrunk back from the call of God in your life. How does knowing the truth that we have purpose and are set apart make you feel? From the list below, which most accurately reflects how you feel about being called to a specific purpose?

*Chosen and special? * Intimidated or trapped?*

*Valued and significant? * Threatened or frightened?*

*Part of a greater plan and not alone? * Something else?*

PONDER what has led you to feel that way. If your responses align with fear or doubt, **ASK** God to help you with your fears. **PRAY** that by His Spirit, you'll begin to see perfection and beauty in God's path. **ASK** for courage to surrender all fear and doubt which keeps you from embracing His plan. **PRAISE** Him for creating you and declaring that you are valued, chosen, special, and designed to be part of His story.

DAY 3

READ JEREMIAH 1:6.

How does Jeremiah respond to God's call? What excuses does he give?

READ ISAIAH 6:1-8 & JUDGES 6:6-16.

What responses/excuses were given when God called Isaiah and Gideon?

What are some common excuses people give for why they can't do something they've been asked to do? Why do you think it's common for people to shirk back from the call of God on their lives?

RECALL a time you were asked to do something you felt was too big or beyond your capacity or ability. How did you respond?

REFLECT/JOURNAL your thoughts. Have you been giving God excuses?

ASK God to reveal areas in which those excuses keep you from taking hold of His call and purpose for your life. What step does God want you to take in response to His call? Do you need to release some fears or excuses to enable you to begin trusting God's plan and His provision?

LIST one or two practical ways you can begin doing that today.

DAY 4

RE-READ JEREMIAH 1:6. How did Jeremiah see himself?

Now **READ JEREMIAH 1:7-10 AND 17-19.**

How did God respond to Jeremiah? A fortified city, an iron pillar, and a bronze wall all speak of strength and stability. Jeremiah didn't naturally see those things in himself, yet God placed them there.

What gifts or characteristics has God given you to fulfill your calling?

In your journal, **LIST** three gifts and characteristics.

ASK God to bring to mind the things He's given and gifted you to do.

Jeremiah's life teaches us that God often sends us places we wouldn't have chosen for ourselves, but in so doing He makes us people we couldn't have become by ourselves.

God will make us the people we need to be in order to do what he calls us to do.

DAY 5

How we see ourselves drastically impacts our attitude and behavior.

What if Jeremiah saw himself as God saw him? As a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall? What are the images you see when reflecting on your own life? How do you see yourself? Does it match how God sees you?

READ the following Scriptures aloud and personalize each verse.

- **John 15:1,5** (I'm a part of the true vine, a branch of His life)
- **1 Peter 2:5** (I'm being built up as a spiritual house)
- **2 Corinthians 1:21** (I've been established in Christ & anointed by God)
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** (I'm a new creation)
- **Ephesians 1:3** (I'm blessed with every spiritual blessing)
- **Philippians 4:7** (God will supply all my needs)
- **Colossians 1:27** (Christ Himself is in me)
- **Romans 8:11** (God's Spirit lives in me and gives me life)

Do you believe these things? As followers of Christ, we've been given **every spiritual blessing**, and have the Spirit of God living in and equipping us to do the things God calls us to do.

"God tends, it would appear from the stories of Scripture, almost always to call people who are too young, too timid, too old, or too immoral.

The story is not about the singular virtues of the one being called.

The story is about a risk-taking, bold sort of God who reaches in and calls people for divine service, giving them what they need for that service.

God equips and stands beside those whom God calls."

Renovare Study Bible

CONFESS to God the things you've believed about yourself which have kept you from responding to His call on your life. **TRUST** Him to provide everything you need. **BELIEVE** the words of truth He speaks to you about how He sees and values you.