

# forLIFE

## DAY 1

In Jeremiah 13:1, God instructs Jeremiah to buy a linen belt. As we read the story we discover that this linen belt represents God's people. By choosing linen, God says something about His people. Throughout the Old and New Testament, fine linen was used to symbolize royalty, purity, and holiness.

**READ** these verses. **NOTE** how/where linen is to be used.

*Genesis 41:41-42 ~ Exodus 26:1 ~ Exodus 28:4-5  
Exodus 28:39-42 ~ Revelation 19:7-8*

As you realize this is God's desire for you as His child, how do you respond? That as His children through grace, He sees us this way?

## DAY 2

**READ** Jeremiah 13:1-2, 11.

God says to His people; "I want you close to me. I want you to display My glory." As you think about the object lesson God reveals through Jeremiah (*wrapping the linen belt around his waist*) what does that tell you about God's desire for you? What kind of relationship does He desire? Understanding that our LORD God longs for intimacy and relationship with us is a far cry from how many of us see Him - as one who merely tolerates us as we spend our lives trying to appease Him to be allowed into eternity.

Which image of God most closely represents how you've understood the relationship between God and mankind? In what way has it affected your view of God? Your own relationship with Him? Does understanding God's true desire for you and a desire for a close and intimate relationship change your perspective? If so, explain.

## DAY 3

**READ** Jeremiah 13:4-10.

Jeremiah is instructed to act out an object lesson for God's people. He's showing what has and will happen when you take something pure and refined and *throw it to the garbage*.

According to these verses, what does God say the people have done to themselves that will result in them becoming useless? **WRITE** these out. **NOTICE** God uses the words **wicked people** to describe the very ones He previously had chosen fine linen to represent. Instead of purity, royalty, and holy, the people have chosen the very things that will destroy them.

In practical terms, what do we choose which results in being rendered useless and will ultimately destroy us? In what ways might you be refusing to listen to God's words in your life? Apart from God, what things/people/choices do you serve? Who/what is your object of worship?

**TAKE** time today to come before God in prayer.

**SPEND** time listening to His Spirit.

**BE** quiet before Him.

**SEEK** to hear what He says about you and your heart.

*Do the words in verse 10 describe you?*

**ALLOW** Him to guide you into truth.

**CONFESS** what He reveals to you.

**RECEIVE** His forgiveness.

**LISTEN** to Him and **TURN** from that which leads you to ruin.

## DAY 4

When you consider classic biblical attire of a relatively loose fitting tunic, the belt fits snugly and clings tightly to the body. What comes to mind when you think about God desiring that kind of close and intimate relationship with you? **READ** Jeremiah 13:11.

What did the people need to do to be God's renown, praise and honor?

To have the kind of relationship He desires?

What does listening to God mean? **LIST** some ways you listen to God.

**READ** James 1:22, Luke 11:28, and John 10:26-27.

Listening to God is more than simply hearing. Listening requires a response. What's God saying to you? Are you listening? Do your daily choices reflect obedience? What practical steps can you take to listen, respond, and obey?

## DAY 5

**READ** John 10:1-15.

**WRITE** out everything the Good Shepherd does for His sheep.

Why does the Good Shepherd come? (v 10)

To whose voice do the sheep listen? When we're tempted to listen and follow other voices, what we can do to ensure we know the Good Shepherd's voice? The shepherd's purpose was to protect, care, and lead the sheep to pastures for food and water - to give them life.

**LOOK** back at what you've written. These are the things God desires to give and do for us. Jeremiah is an incredible model of someone who followed God for a lifetime. As he did so, he found true, abundant life.

What kind of life do you seek? Do you follow voices which lead you to brokenness and steal your life? Are you following voices like the hired hand who doesn't care for you and will abandon you to destruction at the first sign of danger? Do you seek an abundant life? The voices we follow determine the life we find.

**READ** Psalm 23.