

# forLIFE

## DAY 1

Jeremiah was called to be a prophet to Israel. He challenged the people to repent or face destruction. But the people of Israel are stubborn. They refuse to repent and decide to plot against Jeremiah to destroy him. So Jeremiah complains to God.

**READ** Jeremiah 15:15-18.

**NOTICE** how Jeremiah's focus has changed. In verse 16 he received God's words with joy. After a long opposition - enduring sadness and loneliness - he lost focus and saw only the pain in his life. He believed God failed him.

**REFLECT** on times/situations when you thought/believed God failed you. Did you ask questions like:

***"Why have you done this to me?"***  
***"Haven't I served you by doing \_\_\_\_\_?"***  
***"Aren't I your child?"***

During these times what do you expect from God?  
Do you feel chosen and special? Do you feel frightened and trapped?

## DAY 2

**REFLECT** on yesterday's complaint from Jeremiah.

**READ** Jeremiah 15:19-21 for God's response.

God challenges Jeremiah to change his thinking from hopelessness to thoughts of salvation, strength, and determination. God gives Jeremiah the bigger picture.

In what way has God pulled you out of hopelessness?  
How has he given you strength?  
Do you feel like you're stuck in a pit? Do you focus on the opposition?  
Can you change your focus to God's strength in your life?  
**LIST** some worthy words on which to focus during opposition.  
These will become your **BRONZE WALL** of protection.

## DAYS 3 - 5

How do you respond in the face of opposition? We have three options.  
We can **QUIT**, **GO ALONG** with the crowd, or **STAND**.

## *Sometimes we quit.*

**READ** Jeremiah 20:7-9. Have you ever wanted to quit?

***MAYBE...***

... you've lost someone close to you.

... people have expectations that you can't meet no matter how hard you try.

... your classmates/co-workers gossip and lie about you.

Has it ever gotten so painful that you've isolated yourself from the world?

**JOURNAL** about a time when this happened to you.

What keeps you going?

## *Sometimes we go along with the crowd.*

**READ** Jeremiah 28:10, 11c-13.

Hananiah, a false prophet, told the people what they wanted to hear, and Jeremiah went along with it. How easy is it to go along with the crowd?

*Your friends gossip about someone and you don't say anything.*

*You're offered a cigarette/drink/pill as everyone watches and you just take it.*

*All your friends have boats. You start thinking about getting a loan to buy one, too.*

Can you think of a time when you went along with the crowd?

Are you currently experiencing this go-along-with-the-crowd option?

Just as God pulled Jeremiah out of the crowd and brought him back to his calling, the Holy Spirit continues to call us back to a relationship and purpose with God. How is God calling you today?

## *Sometimes we take a stand.*

**READ** Jeremiah 20:1-4.

In the face of opposition, Jeremiah takes a stand. God calls many others (like Ezekiel) as well.

**READ** Ezekiel 3:4-9.

In which ways do you take a stand in the face of opposition?

What keeps you strong?

## *There are gifts known only to those who persevere.*

Which gifts does God give that you wouldn't have received otherwise?

How do you hold onto these gifts when the storm is raging?

Have you noticed that most of the book of Jeremiah is his conversation with God?

Perhaps our relationship with God is the greatest gift we can receive.

**THANK** God for his faithfulness in your life and the relationship you can have with Him despite the storms in life.