

forLIFE

DAY 1 - READ *Jeremiah 1:4-5*

Before the thought of God being important entered our minds, He had already singled us out as important. Before we even thought to search for meaning and purpose, God appointed a meaningful, purposeful life for us. *What does that mean to you? How does that affect who you are today?*

Knowing that truth can turn everything in our lives upside-down. The perspective changes from frantically searching for life's answers - running from one fix to another, and perhaps seeing our lives as some kind of puzzle to solve - to coming to God [*the Author of our story - the One who knows us and reveals the truth about our lives.*].

We go back to the beginning as we close the study of Jeremiah. *How does remembering the truth of being known by God [being thought up, formed, and designed by God] make a difference in living faithfully to God? What kind of impact on your life does it make when you know you've been called and given by God?*

DAY 2 - READ *Jeremiah 1:1-3 & Jeremiah 52:31-34*

These verses remind us that the **world**, the city of Jerusalem, and life itself was well under way before Jeremiah entered the scene. Even when Jeremiah was no longer in the picture, the story continued.

If we're going to live our lives as we should, we must be aware that we, like Jeremiah, are living in the middle of a story that was begun and will be concluded by God. Our entrance comes in the middle of a sentence, in the middle of a paragraph in a single chapter of an epic story.

*Why is it dangerous to take a single sentence out of Biblical context and attempt to derive complete understanding from it? How does seeing and focusing on **our own world and our lives** do the same thing? In what ways can we miss the true story and the point of our own lives if we fail to view it in the context of what came before and comes after? Who's the main character when your life is at the center?*

It's tragic when we refuse to be a part of the story unless we're the hero. It's life-giving and life-changing when we realize each sentence has been beautifully crafted to take us from our present circumstance to the place where we can receive what's to come. That's the purpose to which we've been called.

DAY 3 - READ *Jeremiah 52:9-16*

The last picture we're given is the utter destruction of Jerusalem. Ironically, it's not a definitive picture of the conclusion of Jeremiah's life. We want to know what happens, but don't get an ending. This can cause us

to question the entire purpose or meaning of Jeremiah's life. *Why bother?* Or perhaps it propels us into the very life of faith in which everything matters and most importantly, it includes what is **beyond** ourselves.

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.
The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20*

When you don't see results, or the results are undesired, or life is plain messy and unresolved, where do you go from there?

DAY 4 - READ *Acts 17:28*

If we interpret our lives via the cultural ladder of success or by measuring our ease and comfort, we fall short. Our ability to faithfully follow God for a lifetime will fade in and out. The **sentence** which our life represents will become a rambling, droning insignificant story. Jeremiah knew his life was meant for more and wanted it. Most of us want it as well. As we study Jeremiah's life, we see his dependence on God, his relationship through prayer, as well as the lens from which he viewed his life and the world. Prayer is the thing which God confirms and affirms the faith we're committed to. It re-establishes our priorities.

*How vital is prayer in your life right now? Has there been a time when your prayer life was more significant? What changed? If we're to walk faithfully with God **forLife**, prayer must become our first language! What steps can you take today to elevate the importance of prayer?*

DAY 5 - READ *Hebrews 10:23-25*

Jeremiah wasn't popular, but he had friends. READ *Jeremiah 26:24*. **Ebed-Melek** rescued Jeremiah from the cistern. **Baruch** was Jeremiah's faithful disciple and scribe who stayed with him until the end. As solid as his inner life of faith was, Jeremiah still needed friends, and God clearly used them in Jeremiah's life. A lifetime of faithfulness requires that we have relationships with others.

What kind of support and accountability system do you have in place? Are you a part of a small group? If not, why not consider seeking a group to belong to? If you're a part of a group, in what ways do you seek to spur one another on to love and good deeds? What would it look like to bring your small group to a higher level of support and accountability?

A lifetime of faithfulness isn't accidental; it requires intentionality. What practical steps can you take to ensure a lifetime of walking with God?