

LESSON 1

Jeremiah 1:1-3:5

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Day 1

1. What motivates you to study Jeremiah and what do you hope to gain from it?
2. Why was the period of Jeremiah's prophetic ministry a tumultuous one for Judah?
3. Who was Abiathar and what connection might Jeremiah have had to him (1:1-3)? (See 1 Kgs 2:26-27.)

Day 2

4. What are the typical features of a biblical call narrative that are also found in God's call of Jeremiah (1:4-10; see commentary, p. 10)? (See Exod 3:1-12; Judg 6:11-24; Isa 6:1-6.)
5. What powerful effects will ensue from the words God will give Jeremiah to speak (1:10)? (See Isa 55:10-11.)
6. When have you experienced the awesome power that words can have? (See Prov 18:21; Luke 6:45; Jas 3:1-12.)

Day 3

7. How do Jeremiah's visions of an almond tree and a boiling kettle suggest danger for Judah and Jerusalem (1:11-15)?
 8. God instills Jeremiah with confidence before his adversaries (1:18). Describe a time when your faith gave you confidence or assurance in a difficult or threatening situation.
- a) What two images are used to describe the relationship between God and Israel in 2:1-2 and 2:3? (See Isa 62:5; 1 Cor 3:9; Eph 5:31-32.)
 - b) What images arise in your heart and mind when you contemplate your relationship with God?

10 Lesson 1—Jeremiah 1:1-3:5

Day 4

10. When in its history was God's devotion to Israel especially nourishing, with Israel completely dependent upon God (2:2-3)? (See Deut 32:10-12; Hos 2:16.)
11. What are the special features of the type of devotion that are implied by the Hebrew word *hesed* that is translated as "devotion" in 2:2?
12. Through Jeremiah, God calls himself a source of living waters that Israel rejected (2:13-18). What does it mean to you to think of God as a source of living waters? (See Ezek 36:24-27; John 4:10-14; 7:37-39.)

Day 5

13. What has Israel done to be charged with prostitution and to be described as a wild donkey in heat (2:20-24)?
14. What entices people away from God today (2:27)? Are these enticements the same as or different from simple idolatry? (See Phil 3:19; Col 3:5.)
15. a) How close to your own neighborhood or general area have the innocent been affected by violence (2:34-35)?
b) What steps can local communities take to curb violence?

Day 6

16. What experience have you had with misplaced trust (2:36-37)?
17. a) What does Mosaic Law (Deut 24:1-4) say about Israel's situation as described in 3:1?
b) What does this imply for Israel (3:1-5)? (See 3:14-15.)
18. What does a faith-filled relationship with God require beyond embracing heartwarming images of God (3:4-5)? (See Matt 7:21.)