

THE GOD WHO TEARS DOWN & BUILDS

JEREMIAH 1-29

dpc growth group studies

DUBBO
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

study 1: Jeremiah 1

FOR STARTERS...

1. *What's one of the biggest things you've ever seen?*

READ JEREMIAH 1

2. Note down all the things God says he has done or will do.

v5

v5

v5

v8

v9

v10

v12

v15

v16

v18

v19

3. Do any of them stand out to you?

4. What does all this tell us about our God?

For the next 3 questions, be as specific as you can in terms of your own life.

5. In what ways is this chapter a comfort to you?

6. In what ways is this chapter a shot in the arm for you?

7. In what ways is this chapter a wake up call to you?

study 2: Jeremiah 2-17

FOR STARTERS...

1. *In what ways is sin minimised in our culture and our own minds?*

*In chapter 1 we were introduced to God and his plans to tear down his people using the world super power Babylon as his instrument. In chapters 2-17 we're given a look into **why** God is going to destroy his people.*

READ JEREMIAH 2:9-13; 2:23-25; 5:7-9

2. What sin is being described here?
3. What effect does it have to describe the sin in such offensive terms?
4. In what ways might this sin creep (or march!) into our lives?

READ JEREMIAH 7:1-15

5. What sin is being described here?

6. What will God do about it?

7. In what ways might this sin creep (or march!) into our lives?

READ JEREMIAH 11:1-17

8. What sin is being described here?

9. What will God do about it?

10. In what ways might this sin creep (or march!) into our lives?

11. How has what we've read shaped the way you feel about your sin?

12. How has what we've read shaped the way you feel about your God?

13. What helps you to put to death your earthly sinful nature?

study 3: Jeremiah 18-20

FOR STARTERS...

1. *What's one of the best offers you've ever heard of?*

FRESH clay can be changed...

READ JEREMIAH 18:1-11

2. What do these verses teach us about God?
3. What is God offering Israel?
4. Given what we saw in chapters 2-17, why is verse 11 so remarkable?
5. In what ways is the word of forgiveness given to us in Jesus even more remarkable?

FIXED clay can't be changed...

READ JEREMIAH 19

6. In what ways was Israel like a fixed / finished pot? (see esp v15)

7. What does God say he will do to them as a result?

READ ACTS 2:36-39

8. How do these words between Peter and the very people who screamed for Jesus' blood highlight God's heart and offer to the world?

9. What's the name of one person you could help take one step closer to understanding Jesus?

10. What's the next thing you could do to help them?

study 4: Jeremiah 21-23

FOR STARTERS...

1. *What's so good about having someone good in charge? What's so bad about having someone bad in charge?*

READ JEREMIAH 21:1-2

2. Given what we've seen in chapters 1-20, why is this request from King Zedekiah a bit rich?

READ JEREMIAH 21:3-7

3. What's God's response to King Zedekiah?

READ JEREMIAH 22:6-7, 10-12, 18-19, 24-27; 23:1-2

4. What's God gripe against the kings of Judah? What will he do to them?

READ JEREMIAH 23:3-8

5. What will God one day provide for his people? What difference will he make to their lives?

In John 10 Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd, the one who even lays down his life for his sheep.

6. In what ways does Jesus as our Good King / Shepherd remove our fears? bring us into safety?

7. What confidence does having Jesus over us bring into our decision making?

study 5: Jeremiah 24-29

A BIT OF HISTORY...

The Babylonian conquest of Judah takes place in 3 stages. Stage 1 was in 606BC where the best of Judah were taken into exile into Babylon e.g. Daniel. Stage 2 was in 597BC where Babylon takes even more prisoners into exile into Babylon. And then stage 3 was in 587/6BC where Babylon brings utter destruction to Judah and Jerusalem takes the nation as captives. Chapter 24 is set around the time of the second stage of the exile.

READ JEREMIAH 24

1. Where does the future hope of God's people lie? Why is this surprising?

A few years later, the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre and Sidon (neighbours of Judah) send envoys to Judah to work out if they can band together to overthrow the Babylonians.

READ JEREMIAH 27:1-11

2. What's God's word to Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre and Sidon?
3. What course of action does he tell them to take?

READ JEREMIAH 27:12-15

4. What's God's word to Judah?

If you have time...

READ JEREMIAH 28:1-4, 10-14

5. Who had the more appealing message for Judah: Hananiah or Jeremiah?

The people in exile in Babylon would have been looking back on those still in the promised land with longing, wanting to be back in God's place among his people. But God had a very different word for them. In chapter 29 we have a letter Jeremiah sent to those in exile in Babylon after the second stage of the exile.

READ JEREMIAH 29:15-19

6. What did God say to those in exile about those Jews who remained back in the land?

Everyone back from here!

The recurring theme in these chapters is that God's judgment must and will fall. However, after the judgment, God will restore his people.

READ JEREMIAH 24:5-7

7. What does God promise to do for the ones exiled into Babylon?
8. In what ways does Jesus enter into this pattern of judgment having to fall before God's salvation comes?
9. How does he bring the hopes of Jeremiah 24:5-7 to reality?
10. What's your experience of being given a new heart? What new desires and attitudes and behaviours do you now have as a result of God giving you a new heart by his Spirit through his Son?

