

Jeremiah Part 1

Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

*YOU'VE FORSAKEN ME:
REPENT AND RETURN
(CHAPTERS 1-24)*

Jeremiah Part 1 Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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JEREMIAH PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis

- Jeremiah 1–2
- Jeremiah’s appointment and God’s words to Judah

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what spoke to them or impressed them as they studied this lesson.

JEREMIAH 1

What is this chapter about?

The Lord’s word came to Jeremiah

He appointed Jeremiah a prophet to the nations
He also spoke to the people of Judah and Jerusalem

Tell your group to look at “Jeremiah a Man Appointed by God” and the “Map of Israel” as visual aids.

Jeremiah was a young man, the son of a priest from Anathoth

When did the Lord’s word come to Jeremiah?

In Josiah’s 13th year as king of Judah—the time of this chapter

Also in Jehoiakim’s reign until Judah’s exile in Zedekiah’s 11th year as king.

Tell your group to look at “The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah’s Time” as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

According to 2 Chronicles 34 what did Josiah do as king of Judah?

Began to seek the Lord in the 8th year of his reign. He was 16 years old.

Began to purge Judah in the 12th year of his reign, 20 years old.

In his 13th year as king of Judah the Lord first spoke to Jeremiah.

In his 18th year as king, he finished purging / cleansing the land and repaired the temple. During that repair, the book of the Law was found.

How significant was it that the book of the Law had been lost to Judah?
What was Josiah’s response when he heard it?

When Josiah heard God’s words of judgment for disobedience, he humbled himself before the Lord.

He led the people to make a covenant of obedience before the Lord.

Throughout his lifetime, they didn’t turn from following Him.

What did the Lord tell Josiah about “the evil / disaster” He was going to bring on Jerusalem?
When was He going to bring it? Why?

Because of prior abominations the kings and people of Judah and Jerusalem had done, the judgment was still coming on Judah and Jerusalem. It would not come in Josiah’s reign, but after he died.

According to Jeremiah 52, did the Lord bring “the evil / disaster” on Jerusalem and Judah?

Yes, they were taken captive to Babylon in Zedekiah’s reign.

How long did the Lord’s word come to Jeremiah? How long did he know what was ahead for Judah and its people?

Jeremiah knew from Josiah’s reforming reign that Judah faced judgment, and what it was. It was about 40 years before it happened.

What was Jeremiah’s age when the Lord appointed him? Is that relevant to young people now?

He was a youth.

Both the king and the prophet were young men, the two spiritual leaders of God’s people Judah.

What was the conversation between the Lord and Jeremiah in verses 4-10? Ask what your group learned about the Lord from these verses and what they learned about Jeremiah.

Before the Lord formed Jeremiah, He knew and appointed him as a prophet to the nations.

Ephesians 1:3-5; 2:10

He chose all believers in Christ before the foundation of the world.

Chosen to be holy and blameless

His workmanship—He prepared the good works each of us is to do.

John 15:16

Jesus appointed the eleven disciples to go and bear fruit.

This seems to apply to all believers, too.

The Lord was going to send Jeremiah to places and tell him what to speak to the people he was sent to.

Verse 8, the nations . . . don't fear; God will deliver.

Verse 17 the people of Judah . . . not overcome you / prevail; God will deliver.

The Lord warned Jeremiah not to be dismayed before the people of Judah and Jerusalem.

What's the meaning of verses 11-12? How does this relate to Jeremiah's message?

This is a play on words in Hebrew.

In verse 12 "watch" is a similar word in Hebrew to "almond."

The almond tree blossoms before other trees in the early spring.

The blossoms are the signs that almonds will come later.

God will perform His Word, even if it's delayed for a time.

Relate this to 1 Thessalonians 2:13. His Word still performs its work.

Jeremiah was not the first prophet to announce the coming judgment on Judah.

The Lord prophesied judgment through Jeremiah in a time of revival.

It didn't come for several years . . . but it came as He said.

According to verses 13-16, what was going to happen?

Out of the north, kingdoms will bring evil / disaster on Judah's inhabitants and Jerusalem.

Jerusalem and cities of Judah—their kings, princes, priests, and people were the recipients of the Lord's judgment because they forsook the Lord and worshiped other gods they made

What do verses 17-19 say about Jeremiah?

He was to speak all God commanded. God made him as a fortified city against Judah and its inhabitants, because they would fight against him.

He was not to be dismayed, because God was with him to deliver him.

Ask your group how this might apply to them, and what they learned from the cross-references in 2 Timothy and Matthew.

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus commanded His disciples, and all believers, to make disciples by teaching them to observe all He commanded—His Word.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

The time has come when people turn away from listening to the truth, but believers are still to be ready to preach the sound doctrine of God's Word.

Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts and ask what they put as the themes of Jeremiah 1 and 2.

Jeremiah 1 God appointed Jeremiah a prophet to the nations and Judah
Jeremiah 2 Judah forsook the Lord

JEREMIAH 2

How does this chapter begin? Does it seem like the beginning of a message?

The Lord gave Jeremiah a specific message to go and proclaim to Jerusalem.
No time reference is stated as to when this message was given.

How does this chapter explain the "why" of God's judgment on His people?

Repeated three times in this chapter is the statement that God's people had forsaken Him.
And verse 32 says they forgot Him.

What's the flow of thought in this chapter? The lesson laid it out with the following verses.
Tell your group to look at the "Map of Nations Surrounding Israel" as a visual aid.

Verses 1-3

What was the word?

God remembered the devotion, love, and holiness of His people Israel
At that time, evil / disaster came on other nations who went against Israel.

Verses 4-8

Who and what are these verses about?

God called all of Jacob, Israel, to listen / hear. Although the Northern Kingdom of Israel had already been exiled by Assyria, He still addressed all of Israel.

They went far from Him
Walked after emptiness / worthlessness, became empty / worthless
Defiled His land
No one said, "Where is the Lord?"

Priests, those who handle the Law didn't know Him.
Rulers / shepherds transgressed
Prophets prophesied by Baal
Walked after things that didn't profit

Verses 9-13

How does verse 9 connect with the previous verses?

“Therefore”

I will contend with you and your son’s sons / children’s children.

What had Israel done?

Changed their glory, God, for gods that don’t profit

Other nations didn’t change their gods.

Verse 13 explains that they committed two evils:

- Forsook God, the fountain of living waters
- Hewed broken cisterns that hold no water

Ask what your group learned about the Lord being like the fountain of living water from the other passages they studied.

Water is needed for life—eternal life is the result of drinking the living water He gives. In John 7, Jesus likened the Holy Spirit to rivers of living water in each believer.

Give time to discuss any application your group mentions.

Verses 14-19

What did Israel become? What did they do?

They became a prey because they forsook the Lord.

They went to Egypt and Assyria for help.

Those two nations were broken cisterns that held no water.

God’s people turned not only to worship other gods, but also to other nations for help.

You might ask your group how this applies to today. Who do they turn to for help? Do they go first to God for His direction?

Verses 20-25

What are these verses about?

Idolatry

They washed themselves and denied their Baal worship.

They loved strangers / foreigners, other nations and their gods, and walked after them.

Verses 26-28

What is the message in these verses?

Although the people denied they sinned, they shamed themselves—kings, princes, priests, and prophets.

Trees and stones, idols made from them, cannot save in the time of trouble.

Verses 29-37

What are these verses about?

They transgressed, they contended with the Lord.
He struck them, but they weren't chastened / corrected.

They even killed the prophets He sent to them.

They said they were innocent, that His anger was turned away.
But He was about to send judgment on them.

Give time for your group to discuss application.

You might end your discussion by asking if they are willing to be “Jeremiahs” by taking God’s Word to the people around them.

JEREMIAH PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis

- Jeremiah 3–4
- God called His faithless people to return to Him
- The heart

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they remember about Jeremiah 1. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart and “The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah.”

The Lord appointed Jeremiah a prophet to the nations and Judah.

Jeremiah prophesied during the reigns of Josiah, Jehoiakim, and Zedekiah—until the exile to Babylon.

He heard from the Lord that judgment was coming from the kingdoms of the north on Judah and Jerusalem.

The Lord warned him that his own people would fight against him, but he was not to fear.

What did Jeremiah speak in chapter 2? Who was the message to and what was it about?

Proclaim in Jerusalem’s ears—they have forsaken Me.

The Lord remembered their devotion, love, and holiness as His people followed Him in the wilderness.

Evil / disaster came on all who came against Israel.

He asked why they turned from Him to go after emptiness.

They committed two evils:

forsook the Lord

and went after other gods and nations.

But they said that they were not defiled, they were innocent.

What illustration began in verse 20?

A harlot / whore

While your group is looking at their At a Glance chart, ask what they noted as the themes for Jeremiah 3 and 4.

Jeremiah 3 Return faithless Israel and treacherous Judah
Jeremiah 4 Circumcise your heart or destruction

JEREMIAH 3

Verses 1-5

How does the subject of Judah’s harlotry / whoredom continue?

This is the end of the message begun in chapter 2. 2:1-2 says the Lord’s word came to Jeremiah and he was to go and proclaim it in Jerusalem. Compare 3:6, 11-12 with 2:1-2.

A situation is presented in verse 1.
Then the result is stated—the land polluted.

How does Deuteronomy 24:1-4 explain this?

This is part of the “book of the Law” which was found in Josiah’s time.

If a man divorced his wife and she married another, the first husband was not to take her again to be his wife. That polluted the land.

How did this apply to Judah?

When they turned from God, it was spiritual harlotry / whoredom.
The Lord said they were a harlot / whore with many lovers—other gods and nations.
But they call Him their father and friend.

There was also physical harlotry / whoredom.
Their harlotry / whoredom polluted their land; “therefore,” the Lord withheld rain on it.
But they refused to be ashamed.

What did the Lord say through Jeremiah at the end of verse 5?

To Judah and Jerusalem
You’ve spoken—maybe referring to calling the Lord “Father” and “Friend.”
But they did evil.

Give time for your group to discuss application.

Verses 6-11

What are these verses about?

The Lord spoke to Jeremiah, then told him to go and proclaim toward the north.

This begins the next message.
It was in Josiah's days.

Review the main events of Josiah's reign from his 13th year, when the Lord began to speak to Jeremiah.

Josiah sought the Lord and then began to clean up Judah.

He also went into the land of Israel to purge it of idols, as well.
Israel, the northern kingdom, was captured by Assyria in 733 and 722.

After purging Judah and Israel, Josiah began to repair the temple in Jerusalem.
The book of the Law was found there in Josiah's 18th year as king of Judah.

The Lord told Josiah judgment was coming on Judah, but not until after his death because his heart was tender and he humbled himself before God.

Josiah led the people of Judah to make a covenant with the Lord to obey Him with their whole heart.

What is the comparison between Israel and Judah?
Tell your group to look at their chart in the lesson from Day 2.

Faithless Israel was a harlot / whore.

The Lord wanted her to return to Him, but she didn't.

So He sent her away—divorce.

Treacherous (unfaithful¹) sister Judah saw all of this, but didn't fear that the same would happen to her—she became a harlot / whore anyway.

Verse 10 says Judah didn't return with all her heart, as Josiah did.
The people of Judah returned in deception / pretense.

Because of that, God said Israel was more righteous than Judah.

Verses 12-14

What is the call? To whom?

Jeremiah was to speak toward the north, the direction of the northern kingdom of Israel from Jerusalem and the direction of their captivity.

¹James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996). H901.

The call was to return, but that land had already been taken by Assyria. It was or was in process of being cleansed, purged, by Josiah.

The call was to acknowledge their iniquity / guilt, transgression / rebellion, disobedience. Israel turned away from the Lord, and He called them to turn back to Him.

Relate 1 John 1:8-10 here.

God’s word to the church, true believers in Christ Jesus, is to confess when they sin. He is faithful to forgive and cleanse each believer.

What does Jeremiah 3:12-14 say about the Lord’s character?

He’s gracious / merciful . . . not angry forever.

Verses 15-25

What will happen when Israel turns back to the Lord? As a visual aid, you might make a brief list of these things, such as the one on the last page of this lesson’s guide.

He’ll bring them to Zion and multiply them in the land.
He’ll give them shepherds after His heart to feed them on knowledge and understanding.

They’ll no longer remember the ark of the covenant. It won’t be made again.

Jerusalem will be “The Throne of the Lord.”
All nations will gather there for His name.

Judah and Israel will be united, brought from the land of the north.
Then they’ll truly call Him “Father.”

This is referring to a time yet future.

What can the Lord do for His faithless nation?

Although they dealt treacherously with Him, forgot Him, He can and will heal their faithlessness—He alone is Israel’s salvation.

But they were in a shameful state as Jeremiah spoke—sin and disobedience.

JEREMIAH 4

Verses 1-2

How does the message continue?

If Israel returns, then the nations will bless themselves and glory in the Lord.
This time is yet future.

Truth, justice, and righteousness are evidence of true repentance.
Relate this to 3:17 when the nations will be gathered to Jerusalem.

Verses 3-31

Who are these verses directed to? What is this about? Discuss cross-references.

To Judah and Jerusalem
Break up the fallow ground and not sow among thorns.

Mark 4:18-19

The world's worries and riches' deceitfulness choke the word making it unfruitful. People claim to know the Lord, but their lives show they really don't.

Circumcise themselves to the Lord. Remove the foreskins of their hearts.

They all needed a heart like Josiah's, a heart after the Lord's heart as their future shepherds will have. They needed a pure heart to love the Lord alone.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 and Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6

The heart is deceitful and God searches it to know its true condition. It's deceitful until it's circumcised to love Him.

Romans 2:29

True heart circumcision is by the Spirit of God, not by the Law. New Testament believers have that kind of heart—the Spirit of God living within.

How does this relate to Jeremiah 3:17?

They'll no longer walk after the stubbornness of their evil heart.

What did the Lord call them to do in 4:14?

Wash your heart from evil that you may be saved.

Did they? How were they described in this chapter?

Judah rebelled. Evil touched her heart.
The people were foolish, didn't know God, had no understanding.

Since they were in a state of disobedience, what do verses 4-31 describe?

God's wrath was going to come on them—a great destruction from the north, besiegers from a far country.

The land a waste
The cities ruined

King's and princes' / officials' hearts / courage will fail.
Priests and prophets appalled and astounded.

Woe

What was the relationship and what were the questions between Jeremiah and the Lord in this chapter?

Jeremiah was to sound the alarm and warn of judgment coming.

But he asked the Lord a question about the message of “peace” that had gone to the people.

Either he referred to the promises of earlier prophets about the coming restoration of Jerusalem, as he also did in 3:15-19 and 4:1-2,

or he referred to the false message from those claiming to be prophets, who said,
“Peace”

Jeremiah's heart pounded / beat wildly, verses 19-21, because of what he knew was coming on his people.

He saw the devastation, verses 23-27, of his land.

Although the fruitful land was to be like a wilderness, the Lord was not going to execute a complete destruction on it or His people.

He knew what was coming and could not be silent.
He had to sound the alarm, blow the trumpet.

What were trumpets used for according to Numbers 10?

Summoning the congregation to prepare to move camp
Alarm for war

Announce the appointed feasts, etc.

These were to remind the people of the Lord—

He saves from enemies.

He is the Lord your God.

How did Jeremiah sound the alarm?

Relate this to all believers giving God's message to a sinful world.

What happened in 2 Kings 23:28–24:7?

Again, use the “The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah's Time” and the map as visual aids for this.

Pharaoh Neco of Egypt was going to battle Assyria.

Josiah met him at Megiddo where Neco killed Josiah.

The people of Judah made Josiah's son Jehoahaz king.

Pharaoh Neco imprisoned Jehoahaz and fined Judah. He made Josiah's son Eliakim king of Judah and changed his name to Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim paid the tax to Pharaoh Neco.

After that, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took Egypt and made Jehoiakim his servant for 3 years until Jehoiakim rebelled.

The Lord sent nations against Judah: Chaldeans (Babylonians) and Arameans would have come from the north; Moabites and Ammonites are in the modern land of Jordan, east and south of Jerusalem.

Where was Judah looking for help in time of trouble?

To Assyria and Egypt—to other nations
They were looking to gods made with their own hands

The Lord alone can save; turning to Him requires obedience from the heart.

Who did the Lord use to bring His judgment on Judah?

Those they turned to for help.

What is the application for believers now?

RETURN TO THE LORD

bring you to Zion
shepherds after His heart
not miss ark of covenant
Jerusalem—Throne of the Lord
nations gathered to it
no more stubborn, evil hearts
call God “Father”

bless themselves in Him
circumcised hearts

JEREMIAH PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis

- Jeremiah 5–6

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask your group what they remember from Jeremiah 1–4. Direct them to “Jeremiah, A Man Appointed by God” and their At a Glance chart as visual aids.

Jeremiah 1

The Lord appointed Jeremiah a prophet to the nations and to Judah. His people would fight against him as he told them of coming judgment. God told him not to fear; He would deliver him.

Jeremiah 2

The first message Jeremiah spoke to his people told how they forsook the Lord. Two evils: forsook Him, turned to idols and nations.

Jeremiah 3

Jeremiah 3:5 probably ends the first message and 3:6 begins the second message. This chapter is about Judah’s and Israel’s spiritual harlotry / whoredom. The Lord called them to return to Him.

Jeremiah 4

The Lord will bring destruction from the north on Judah, Jerusalem. They were called to circumcise and wash their evil hearts.

How do Jeremiah 5 and 6 fit into the flow of thought or structure of chapters 1–4?

Chapters 5–6 continue the second message begun in Jeremiah 3:6, which continues the flow of thought from the first message begun in 2:1. God’s people forsook Him, and He was bringing on them judgment from the north.

JEREMIAH 5

Verses 1-3

How does this chapter begin? Who spoke to whom? Discuss cross-reference and word study.

God spoke to Jeremiah in verses 1 and 2.

Roam through Jerusalem’s streets and see if you can find a man who does justice and seeks truth.

If so, then the Lord said He would pardon Jerusalem.

Genesis 18:22-33

Abraham asked God if he would spare Sodom if ten righteous men could be found there, and the Lord agreed. In Jeremiah 5:1, He's only looking for one.

Compare verse 2 with 4:1-2.

In 4:1-2, the Lord called the people to return to Him and swear in truth, justice, and righteousness that "the Lord lives."

In 5:2, they say those words but swear falsely.

Jeremiah responded in verse 3. The Lord looks for truth.

truth

The basic meaning is faithfulness.

Relate to Jeremiah 3–4.

The Lord called His faithless people to return to Him in faithfulness.
He looks for the faithful.

What else did Jeremiah say in his response to the Lord in verse 3?

God had smitten / struck them already, but they didn't weaken (ESV—felt no anguish).
He consumed them, but they refused to take correction—refused to repent.

Compare this with 2:30.

They accepted no chastening.

Verses 4-6

Who is mentioned in these verses? What did Jeremiah say about them?

At the end of this guide there is a chart you might use as a visual aid for this discussion.

The poor are foolish, don't know God's way or ordinance / justice.

The great, who knew and should have done better, broke the yoke of the Lord's ordinance / justice.

"Therefore," they'll be destroyed.

Their transgressions and apostasies (faithlessness) are many.

How do verses 3-6 tell of the people's condition and relate to what the Lord desired to do in verse 1?

He said He would pardon if Jeremiah found a faithful man, but there was none among the poor or great.

Verses 7-9

How do these verses relate to God's desire in verse 1?

What was the Lord willing to do? What was He going to do? Why?

“Why should I pardon you?”

A nation of idolatry and harlotry / adultery

On such a nation—punishment not pardon

The Lord will avenge Himself.

Verses 10-19

What are verses 10-13 about?

Both Israel and Judah lied about the Lord and said misfortune would not come on them; God's Word was not in the prophets.

NOTE: Some commentators interpret verse 13 as God's word not being in the false prophets, instead of the people saying they didn't believe the true prophets' message of judgment.

How do verses 14-17 relate?

“Therefore,” because of what was said.

An enduring, ancient nation was coming against the faithless nation. It would devour / eat and demolish even the fortified cities in which they trusted. Relate this to Jeremiah 4:5-6.

What do verses 18-19 repeat?

Not a complete destruction / end.

Reason for destruction:

God's people served foreign gods in their holy land given to them by Him.

So they will serve strangers in foreign lands.

What's the message of verses 20-29?

This people has a stubborn and rebellious heart—turned aside, departed.
The wicked become great and rich; they excel in wickedness (ESV—no bounds in deeds of evil).

God will punish this nation; He'll avenge Himself.

There was not a man, verse 1, who did justice or sought truth.

What is the appalling thing in verses 30-31?

The prophets prophesied falsely.

The priests ruled by their own authority.

The people loved it.

But at the end of it, what would they do?

Give your group time to discuss relevant application.

You might ask what your group wrote on their At a Glance for this chapter's theme.

Refuse to repent—shall I not avenge Myself?
Verses 9 and 29

JEREMIAH 6

Tell your group to look at the “Map of Israel” in the Appendix of their PUP workbook.
Why was the judgment or disaster coming from the north?

The coming disaster or judgment was Babylon.
They would come from the north because of the desert between Babylon and Judah.

How does this chapter begin?

Jeremiah warned the people of Benjamin to flee Jerusalem. Benjamin, whose territory was north of Jerusalem, was part of the southern kingdom of Judah.

NOTE: For your information: some commentaries say Jeremiah called to the men of Benjamin to flee first because that is where he lived, 1:1.

Blow a trumpet . . . raise a signal;
evil / disaster comes from the north.
Tekoa is south of Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 33:1-6

Ezekiel was also to be God’s watchman to warn of God’s coming judgment. He was in Babylon and warned those who were taken into exile the first two times Nebuchadnezzar took captives from Judah.

Verses 2-8

Relate these verses to 5:15-17 and Deuteronomy 28–29. How do they compare?

God brought on Judah and Jerusalem a nation from afar whose language they didn’t understand.

The horrible curses came because of disobedience to God’s Word.

The siege, Jeremiah 4:16; 6:6 and Deuteronomy 28:52-57, was part of this punishment on His people—the people who were to love Him with their whole heart.

Then after the punishments in their own land, they were scattered out of the land God promised them—their holy land of refuge.

In those nations where they’re scattered they’ll find no rest.

How do verses 9, 16, and 22 begin?

“Thus says the Lord”

Ask your group what they learned from these three statements made by the Lord.

Verses 9-15

The Lord said Israel will be thoroughly gleaned by the attackers.

Jeremiah wondered who he could give the warning to. Their ears were closed / uncircumcised to God’s Word, but he was weary of holding it in.

Then the Lord told him . . . all of them.

The people were listening to the prophets and priests who lied to them.

God’s wrath was coming, but they told the people, “Peace”

All the people, from the least to the greatest, were greedy and liars.

Give time for your group to discuss application.

Verses 16-21

What are these verses about?

The Lord said,
Walk in the good way—the way Israel walked with the Lord in the beginning.

The people said,
We will not walk; we will not listen.

Therefore, the Lord said,
Disaster was coming because they rejected God’s Word.

Their offerings and sacrifices were not pleasing to God.

Not from the heart
Worshipping other gods at the same time

“Therefore,” the Lord said they’ll all perish together.

Verses 22-26

What did the Lord say? What is repeated in these verses? Who are they about?

The great nation coming from the north

Cruel, no mercy

Voice / sound roars, arrayed as a man for the battle, the enemy

Terror; suddenly the destroyer will come

Verses 27-30

What do verses say about Jeremiah?

Assayer / tester of metals
Tester

Know and assay / test the people’s ways

All were stubbornly rebellious, corrupt.

They were refined, as silver is, but the wicked weren’t separated / removed.

It’s because they were all wicked.

So they were rejected like rejected silver.

The Lord rejected them because they
Swore falsely by Him saying, “As the Lord lives”
Refused to take correction
Refused to repent
Didn’t know His ordinance
Forsook God
Swore by other gods
Dealt very treacherously with the Lord
Lied about Him
Had stubborn and rebellious hearts
Turned aside and departed
Didn’t fear the Lord
Excelled in wickedness
Closed their ears to His Word
Listened to false prophets
Rejected God’s law

What was the Lord’s desire in 5:1?

If one who does justice and seeks truth, then I will pardon.

What was He going to do?

Not pardon, but punish and avenge Himself on His people

What would have prevented this?

Return to the Lord, repent

What is this chapter about? The main theme?

Judah didn’t listen, rejected God’s laws; He rejected them

You might end this discussion by asking what your group has learned from the study of Jeremiah so far.

God's people	The prophets	The priests	The nation from the north
<p>The poor --foolish --don't know God</p> <p>The great --knew God's way --wicked --became rich</p> <p>All loved false Greedy for gain</p> <p>Not listen to God Reject His law</p>	<p>Prophesied falsely saying, "Peace...."</p> <p>Not ashamed</p>	<p>Ruled by own authority</p> <p>Dealt falsely</p>	<p>From afar Enduring, ancient Different language Devour, demolish</p> <p>Cast a siege against Jerusalem</p> <p>A great nation Cruel, no mercy</p> <p>Will suddenly destroy</p>

JEREMIAH PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis

- Jeremiah 7–9
- Worship and obedience

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they remember of Jeremiah 1–6. What are common themes to these chapters?

Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Jeremiah 1

The Lord appointed Jeremiah a prophet to the nations and Judah.

His people will fight against him, but the Lord was with him to deliver him.

The Lord told him of destruction coming from the north on Judah and Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 2–3:5

This was Jeremiah's first message.

The message is: You have forsaken Me.

Jeremiah 3:6–6:30 seems to be all one message. It was spoken during Josiah's reign.

Jeremiah 3:6-25—Return faithless Israel

Jeremiah 4—Circumcise / wash your heart;

God bringing destruction from the north

Jeremiah 5—Shall God not avenge Himself on a nation such as this?

Jeremiah 6—Disaster from the north because not listen to God's Word

The Lord called His faithless people to repent and return to Him with a whole heart. They refused to listen to Him. He was bringing destruction on them from the north.

JEREMIAH 7

Verses 1-11

What is the setting for this chapter? What did the Lord tell Jeremiah to do?

He was to stand in the temple gate and proclaim this message to all who went into the temple to “worship” the Lord. This seems to be a new message.

Jeremiah told the people to amend their ways.

He called them to repent—change their ways.
If they did, He would let them live in the land He gave them.

They put their trust in deceptive words—“the temple of the Lord.”
The Lord said destruction was coming, but the people didn’t think He would destroy His own house. They trusted in it, instead of what He said.

Verses 5-9 explain what He meant by amending their ways.

Practice / execute justice among neighbors.
Don’t oppress aliens / sojourners, orphans / fatherless, widows.
Don’t shed innocent blood.
Don’t walk / go after other gods. It leads to ruin / harm—God’s wrath on them.

Don’t steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, offer sacrifices to gods

Jeremiah said these things to the people going into the temple to worship the Lord.

But their “worship” of God was fruitless.
They were worshipping other gods at the same time.

They practiced abominations and then went to the Lord’s house and said they were delivered.

Relate this to Micah 6:8.

The Lord’s desire is not just going through the motions of worship, but actions flowing out of true reverence of God—do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with Him.

Lead your discussion back to Jeremiah 7:11.

What had they made the Lord’s house into? Who saw it? Who was about to judge it?

A den of robbers, and the Lord saw it.

At any point in your discussion, give opportunity for your group to talk about relevant application.

Verses 12-15

What are these verses about?

Tell your group to look at the map as a visual aid for this discussion. Discuss cross-references.

God reminded the people in His temple of what happened to His place in Shiloh. He destroyed it because of wickedness; the same was about to happen again.

Joshua 18:1; Judges 18:31; 1 Samuel 1:3; 4:1-22; Psalm 78:54-60

The tabernacle was at Shiloh from the time of Joshua until God destroyed Shiloh, but was at Gibeon when Solomon built the permanent temple.

The Lord abandoned His dwelling at Shiloh and also cast out Ephraim, a reference to the northern kingdom of Israel.

He was about to do the same with Solomon's temple in Jerusalem. And for the same reason—His people turned from Him. They didn't worship Him with their whole heart.

What does 2 Chronicles 7 say about the temple?

God's name there forever

To Solomon and the people of Israel: if turn away and forsake

uproot from land

house cast out of His sight

because they forsook the Lord and worshiped other gods

Verses 16-20

Who were verses 16-19 directed to? What did the Lord say?

He told Jeremiah not to pray for these people.

They refused to return, repent, listen. The whole family participated in idolatry.

Therefore, they were facing His judgment, wrath.

Verses 21-34

What was the Lord's message?

From the beginning when He brought Israel out of Egypt, He commanded them to obey Him.

Their evil hearts caused them to disobey.

He told them the proper way to worship Him before the tabernacle was constructed.
He even sent prophets to them.

As the people didn't listen to the prophets before, they didn't listen to Jeremiah either.

Jeremiah was to publicly mourn and lament their rejection and God's wrath on them.

According to verses 30-31, what else had they done regarding their "worship"?

Set up idols or some kind of detestable things in the temple
Sacrificed their children by fire in the Valley of Hinnom, Topheth

When did these things happen according to 2 Kings? Tell your group to look at "The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah's Time" as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

2 Kings 16:1-4

Ahaz king of Judah sacrificed his son in the fire.

2 Kings 21:1-9

Manasseh king of Judah, Josiah's grandfather, did the same as Ahaz.
He also set up an image of Asherah in the temple.

2 Kings 23:4-12

Josiah cleaned up and destroyed from his grandfather's wicked reign.

Lead your discussion back to Jeremiah 7. What is the "therefore" in verse 32?

Topheth, the valley of Hinnom, will be called the valley of the Slaughter.

The land will become a ruin, but not until after Josiah's death because of his humble heart.

Ask about the theme of Jeremiah 7.

Don't trust in temple, deceptive words; Valley of Slaughter

JEREMIAH 8

Verses 1-3

How does this message continue?

"At that time"—the time at the end of chapter 7.

Dead bodies and bones will not be buried, but left for the birds and animals by the armies of the north who destroy Jerusalem.

Other things Judah worshiped in the temple, along with the Lord, were the sun, moon, and stars. The bones of those who worshiped them would be spread out as dung on the ground under what they worshiped.

At that time, the evil ones who remain in Jerusalem will be driven away. And they'll desire / prefer death more than their miserable lives at that time. This was during and after the terrible siege.

Verses 4-12

How do these verses repeat what the Lord had told the people before?

Turned away in continual apostasy (ESV—perpetual backsliding).
Deceit, refuse to return, no man repented / relented.
Charged / plunged into sin

His people do not know His ordinances / rules.
The lying pen of the scribes led them to deception.

They rejected His word.
Verses 10-12 are a repeat of 6:13-15.
They, the prophet and the priest, give false peace.

Why the repetition?

Another message at a different time and place
More needed to hear the message or the same ones needed to hear it more than once.

Verses 13-17

What are these verses about?

This is what will happen because of holding fast to deceit.

The fortified cities will not protect from the Lord's punishment.
The Lord has doomed them because of their sin.

Dan was in the north in Israel.
The destruction comes from the north. It's likened to deadly adders—nothing can protect.

Who spoke in verses 18-22?

Jeremiah's heart was faint, filled with sorrow for his people's coming dispersion.

The people will cry in a foreign land (ESV—from the length and breadth of the land) about the Lord, King in Zion. But they provoked the Lord by worshiping foreign gods.

Jeremiah was broken / wounded for the brokenness / wound of his people.

The priests and prophets were giving superficial healing, telling of peace.

Their health was not restored because they didn't return to the Lord, repent, amend their ways.

What is a possible theme for this chapter? Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart.

Evil remnant will choose death

JEREMIAH 9

Verses 1-6

How did the message continue?

Jeremiah still spoke of his people—adulterers and treacherous men.
Compare this with chapter 3.

They didn't know the Lord.
Everyone deceived, and through deceit they refused to know Him.
They proceeded from evil to evil.

What did Jeremiah say about “knowing”?

Those who handled the law did not know Him—the lying pen of the scribes and the priests who practiced deceit.

The people were foolish and stupid, didn't know Him.
Neither the poor nor the great knew His ordinance / rule.

Don't boast in wisdom and might. Boast in knowing and understanding the Lord. Josiah understood this and pled the cause of the afflicted and needy.

When the Lord brings back the exiles, He will give them a heart to know Him, Jeremiah 24:7.

You might ask your group how well they know the Lord, His Word?

Verses 7-16

Why this “therefore”?

Jeremiah is an assayer and tester—they didn't listen to his words from the Lord.
Verse 9 repeats God's earlier conclusion stated in 5:9, 29.
God is just and therefore must judge their sin.

He'll make Jerusalem a heap of ruins and Judah's cities a desolation.

Because they forsook Him, didn't obey His Word.

They worshiped the gods of the nations; therefore, they'll be scattered among the nations.

NOTE: There is no reference to the timing of this message, but it's before Judah was scattered. According to the "Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah," the first "scattering" was in 605 B.C., near the beginning of Jehoiakim's reign.

Verses 17-22

What word is repeated?

Wailing . . . because of the ruin. No one left to gather the corpses.

Verses 23-26

How do these three chapters conclude?

God exercises and delights in lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness.

Those who understand and know Him are to boast only in Him.

Compare this with the cross-references in Jeremiah and John 17:3.

These show a contrast between those who truly know the Lord and those who only say they know Him. Jesus said to know Him is eternal life.

But there was none who repented.

They were all uncircumcised of heart.

Judah was no different from the evil nations around them.

Punishment was coming on the circumcised—Judah and Jerusalem, but also on the uncircumcised nations around them—Egypt, Edom, Ammon, and Moab.

These words were said to those coming into the temple to worship the Lord.

Ask about a theme for this chapter.

Jeremiah 9 Weeping—God will punish their deceit

Give opportunity for your group to discuss any application not already talked about.

JEREMIAH PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

- Jeremiah 10–12
- The True, Everlasting God and idols

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what has ministered to them from this study of Jeremiah so far.

Then ask what they remember from Jeremiah 1–9. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart.

What is Jeremiah 1 about?

The Lord appointed Jeremiah a prophet to the nations and Judah. His message was that the Lord was bringing judgment on Judah from the north. He told Jeremiah that He would deliver him from the people who didn't want to hear the message—his own people.

What is the first message in Jeremiah 2–3:5?

Repeated in these chapters is that God's people Judah forsook Him. They turned to other gods and nations; judgment was coming on all.

What's the message in Jeremiah 3:6–6:30?

The Lord called His people to return to Him, to circumcise and wash their hearts from the evil of turning from Him.

His conclusion was, "Shall I not punish these people? . . . on a nation such as this shall I not avenge Myself?" Judgment was coming from the north.

Where did the Lord tell Jeremiah to deliver the next message?

What are chapters 7–9 about?

This is the message at the temple gates to those coming to "worship" the Lord.

They trusted in deceptive words, held fast to deceit, and refused to return to the Lord. They didn't "worship" Him in truth—faithfulness.

Because of that, judgment was coming from the north.

JEREMIAH 10

Verses 1-16

How does this chapter begin? Relate it to the end of chapter 9.

Don't learn the way of the nations. They were all going the same way.

9:25-26 says God will punish all the uncircumcised of heart—the nations and Judah.

All were facing God's judgment, so don't learn their ways.

Don't be terrified by the signs of the heavens as the nations are.

Don't fear their idols—their customs are delusion / vanity.

It appears this is a continuation of the message in Jeremiah 7–9.

What is this chapter about?

Tell you group to look at the chart in the lesson as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

The true God, King of the nations contrasted with idols.

Idols of the nations which Judah took as their gods.

People make them.

They can't speak or walk.

They can do no harm / evil or good.

No breath in them.

Worthless, a work of mockery / delusion

Fear the King of the nations.

There is none like the Lord.

Great in might

The true God, but His people "worshiped" Him in deceit

Living and everlasting King

Maker of all (ESV—formed all things)

Give time for your group to discuss what they observed about the Lord their God in this chapter.

Ask them how they can apply those truths to their own lives.

What did the Lord say He was going to do in verses 17-18?

Judah was under siege at that time.

The Lord was going to sling out the land's inhabitants.

Who said what in verses 19-25?

Jeremiah spoke these verses.

Some commentators suggest that he spoke verses 19-20 for or as Jerusalem.

Woe—incurable / grievous wound, sickness / affliction, broken, sons gone.

Destruction from the north was coming.

The shepherds, leaders of Judah, became stupid; as were the wise men of the nations, verse 8, and all who worshiped idols, verse 14.

You might ask your group to carefully consider if they are listening to stupid people. This chapter describes them.

How did the message, which began in chapter 7 at the temple gates, end?

Jeremiah requested the Lord to correct him or the people with His justice, not His anger.

He also asked God to pour out His wrath on the nations which devoured Jacob.

Jeremiah understood God's wrath.

Did the nations devour, consume, and lay waste Jacob by leading him into idolatry?

Ask your group what they noted as the theme of this chapter.

Idols are deceitful / fake; Lord of hosts is true, living God

JEREMIAH 11

Where did the Lord tell Jeremiah to deliver this message?

In the cities of Judah
In Jerusalem's streets

Verse 13 might indicate there was an idol in every city and an altar on every street.

Verses 1-13

What is the first part of this chapter about?

The people refused to listen to the words of God's covenant with them.

So He was bringing the curse of the covenant on them, as described in Deuteronomy.

The Lord made this covenant with His people when He brought them out of Egypt. It was the Old Covenant of the Law, which commanded them not to have other gods.

Exodus 20

God Himself spoke the Ten Commandments from Mt. Sinai; His people literally heard His voice. The first two commandments are against idolatry.

You might ask what idols people have today. Relate this to Colossians 3:1-7.

Lead your discussion back to Jeremiah 11:14-17. What else did the Lord say?

Therefore, the Lord told Jeremiah not to pray for these people.
Compare verse 14 with Jeremiah 7:16-17.

They refused to listen to His voice / word / covenant.
So when disaster came and they cried to Him, He didn't listen to them.

Who spoke in verses 18-20?

Jeremiah spoke to the Lord about his situation—the men of Anathoth had plotted to kill Jeremiah. Compare this with Jeremiah 1:1, 18-19.

What was the result to be in verses 21-23?

God would do as He said; deliver Jeremiah and judge the wicked.
None would be left of the men in Anathoth who plotted against Jeremiah.

Jeremiah said the Lord of hosts judges righteously.

Ask your group what they put on their At a Glance chart as the theme of this chapter.

Broken covenant, therefore disaster; plot / scheme against Jeremiah

JEREMIAH 12

Verses 1-4

How do Jeremiah's words to the Lord continue?

He pled his case before the one who judges righteously.

Why have the wicked prospered?

Why are the treacherous at ease?

Their lips said they're near to the Lord, but in their minds they were far from Him. This is a repeated thought in Jeremiah.

But the Lord tries, examines the hearts, 11:20; 12:3.

How long is the land to mourn?

You might ask your group if they've ever wondered about the questions Jeremiah had. Where will they find the answers?

Verses 5-6

How did the Lord answer Jeremiah? Discuss the cross-references and application.

He told him things will get much worse.
Among the “treacherous” men of Anathoth were his own brothers’ and father’s households. “Treacherous Judah” did the same kind of thing to the Lord.

Encourage your group to learn to run with the footmen, so that when it's time to run with the horses, they'll be ready.

Verses 7-13

What did the Lord speak about?

The land, the inheritance He gave to His people Israel.

The Lord told Jeremiah about his family, then He spoke of His own family.

Now He answered about the land mourning.

Ask your group what they learned about the “inheritance / heritage.”

He forsook His house and abandoned His inheritance / heritage.

It seems that the people of Judah thought the Lord would not destroy His house, the temple, or send them out of their land.

He came to hate His inheritance / heritage.

He was giving His inheritance / heritage to be devoured.

No peace for anyone
They were not ashamed of their harvest.

Verses 14-17

What will happen to those who strike at His inheritance / heritage?

The wicked neighbors—the nations surrounding Israel—God will uproot.

And He'll uproot / pluck His people from among those nations.

This message was before they were uprooted / plucked and scattered.

Then He'll again have compassion on them and bring them back to their own land.

Then those who learn the ways of His people, to swear by His name, will be built up.
Compare this with 4:1-2, and contrast it with 10:2.

It seems this also refers to those nations surrounding Israel.

Compare verses 14-17 with Jeremiah 1:9-10.

If they don't listen, they'll be uprooted / plucked up, destroyed.

How important is listening to God's Word?

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart to see how they noted the theme of this chapter.

Jeremiah wanted justice (pled his case); God abandoned His inheritance / heritage, but will have compassion

JEREMIAH PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis:

- Jeremiah 13–15

REVIEW

Direct your group to their At a Glance charts and ask them what the main segments / messages are in Jeremiah 1–12.

Jeremiah 1

The Lord appointed Jeremiah a prophet to the nations and Judah.

His message was that the Lord was bringing judgment on Judah from the north.

He told Jeremiah that He would deliver him from the people who didn't want to hear the message—his own people.

Jeremiah 2–3:5

Repeated in these chapters is that God's people Judah forsook Him.

They turned to other gods and nations; judgment was coming on all.

Jeremiah 3:6–6:30

The Lord called His people to return to Him, to circumcise and wash their hearts from the evil of turning from Him. But His conclusion was, "Shall I not punish these people . . . on a nation such as this shall I not avenge Myself?" Judgment was coming from the north.

Jeremiah 7–10

This is the message at the temple gates to those coming to "worship" the Lord.

They were trusting in deceptive words, holding fast to deceit, and refusing to return to the Lord. They didn't "worship" Him in truth—faithfulness.

Because of that judgment was coming from the north.

There's a good contrast between idols and the true and living God in chapter 10.

NOTE: Some think chapter 10 is not part of the temple message, but separate.

Jeremiah 11–12

The Lord sent Jeremiah to the cities of Judah and to Jerusalem's streets with this message about their not listening to the words of His covenant. Therefore, He told Jeremiah that He'd not listen to the people.

A plot to kill Jeremiah was discussed between the Lord and Jeremiah in these chapters. People from his hometown and family were in on it. Therefore, there would be no one left in Anathoth after the Lord's punishment on them.

There was also a message about the surrounding nations who strike at Israel / Judah. They'll be uprooted / plucked up, and then if they obey, built back up—in the future.

As you discuss each chapter, you can list some of the main points. See the end of this lesson's guide for an example.

JEREMIAH 13

Verses 1-11

What are these verses about?

The Lord told Jeremiah to buy a linen waistband / loincloth.

Verse 11 says the linen waistband / loincloth represented Israel and Judah whom the Lord made to cling to Him. In doing so, they would be a people of renown for His praise and glory, to display who God is.

glory, *tiph'arah*—ornament, decoration, beauty¹

But as in Jeremiah's demonstration of the worthless (ESV—good for nothing) waistband / loincloth, so was Judah worthless for glorifying the Lord. Instead, they walked in the stubbornness of their hearts and went after other gods.

As the waistband became worthless, so He was going to destroy / spoil their pride—the pride they should have had in Him.

NOTE: Some might read in commentaries or in the NAS marginal note that the Hebrew word translated "Euphrates" whose meaning is "fruitfulness," can also be translated "Parah," a place close to Anathoth., Some even connect it with Bethlehem. Don't let your discussion get off track by spending too much time on this.

What's repeated in this message from Jeremiah 11–12?

They didn't listen.

When people choose not to listen to what God says, it leads to pride.

Verses 12-14

What was the next illustration?

The Lord said every jug / jar was to be filled with wine.
The people agreed that they knew that.

But the Lord said He meant all people filled with drunkenness—king, priests, prophets, and people dashing against each other like they were drunk. But it would be destruction.

¹William Lee Holladay, Ludwig Köhler and Ludwig Köhler, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. (Leiden: Brill, 1971). 393.

He would not show pity or be sorry / spare or have compassion.

Verses 15-19

What did Jeremiah call them to do?

Listen / hear.

Don't be haughty / proud.

Give glory to God . . . before He brings darkness.

glory, *kabod*—weight²

They were to show the weight, the value or importance of God.

If they didn't listen, they would be taken captive.

Verse 18 was directed to the king and the queen mother

Take a lowly seat.

Their crowns came off their heads.

They were about to go into exile with others of Judah.

Who were this king and his mother? What, then, was the time of this message?
Tell your group to look at “The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah’s Time.”

2 Kings 24

Jehoiachin, Jeconiah, Coniah—Jehoiakim’s son who ruled Judah 3 months
Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem at that time.

This message in Jeremiah 13 was at the end of Jehoiachin’s reign or the beginning
of Zedekiah’s.

Jehoiachin and his mother were taken captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in his 8th
year as king of Babylon. He left only the poor in the land, but took all others into exile.
This was in 597 B.C., the second time Nebuchadnezzar took people from Judah.

Nebuchadnezzar then made Mattaniah, Josiah’s son and Jehoiachin’s uncle, king of
Judah and changed his name to Zedekiah. He was the last king of Judah.

Lead your discussion back to Jeremiah 13:20-27.

What are these verses about?

The flock was gone.

They went away in shame.

Magnitude / greatness of iniquity

²James Strong, *The New Strong’s Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). H3519.

Accustomed to doing evil; evil was what they were used to doing, their habit.

Forgot the Lord and trusted in falsehood / lies

God was to be their portion, but they had forsaken Him.

So their portion was destruction from the north, scattered.

Adulteries

Abominations

Continual uncleanness

Maybe the reason the Lord told Jeremiah not to put the waistband in water was to demonstrate how unclean it became. No water to wash it. So it became ruined and totally worthless.

Ask your group what they noted as a possible theme for Jeremiah 13 on the At a Glance chart.

Worthless waistband (ESV—good for nothing loincloth); exile, woe

How do [Proverbs 16:17-19](#) and [29:23](#) relate to this chapter in Jeremiah?

Give time to discuss application from this chapter, especially about pride.

JEREMIAH 14

Verses 1-9

What is this message about?

The drought

Who did it affect? What were the effects?

Everyone—nobles, farmers, and even the animals and land of Judah

Verses 7-9 seem to be their recognition of sin and asking God not to forsake them.

These verses might have been Jeremiah speaking for the people or the people themselves speaking.

What was the Lord's response in [verses 10-12](#)?

He'll not accept them, but call their iniquity into account.

They loved to wander, even though they called to the Lord in a time of distress.

Again He told Jeremiah not to pray for them.

Even when they fasted, He was not going to listen to them—they'd not listened to Him.

He was going to make an end of them by sword, famine, and pestilence.

It seems the drought was only the beginning of their judgment.

If you have time, ask about the timing of this message.

Sword, famine, and pestilence were coming or already there.
This was probably the same general time as chapter 13—around 597 B.C.

Verses 13-18

Who spoke in verse 13? What was the conversation about?

Jeremiah told the Lord what the prophets were telling the people— that they'd not see sword or famine, but have lasting peace in Judah.

The Lord answered that the prophets were lying.

False vision, divination
Futility and deception of their own minds

Therefore, they'll meet their end by sword and famine.

There will be no one left to bury the people who listen to the prophets.
They'll all be dead—their wickedness poured out on them.

In verse 17, the Lord told Jeremiah what to say to the people.

The people were crushed / shattered with a sorely infected / great wound.

Crushed in the country / field—by the sword
Crushed in the city—by famine

Both prophet and priest...in a land they didn't know.

Who and what are verses 19-22 about?

It might be the people's response to their afflictions, or it might be that Jeremiah spoke for the people.

Had God completely / utterly rejected Judah? Were they beyond / no healing?

They said they'd sinned and asked the Lord to remember His covenant.
Compare this with Jeremiah 11. Who remembered the covenant?

They said they hoped in Him...but did they really?

Give time for discussion of application from this chapter—maybe specifics like: when there is a drought now, what do people do?

What is a possible theme for this chapter? Tell your group to look at the At a Glance chart.

Drought, sword, famine, and pestilence

JEREMIAH 15

Verses 1-4

How does this chapter begin and how does it relate to the end of Jeremiah 14?

If God’s people had truly repented, He would have spoken differently about them.

Not only did the Lord tell Jeremiah not to pray for this people, but He also said that even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before Him, His heart would not be with His people.

Their hearts were not with Him.

They were headed for:

death / pestilence, sword, famine, captivity
—because they had forsaken the Lord their God.

God appointed four kinds of doom for His people.

The sword to slay, dogs to drag off, birds and beasts to eat what’s left—after the people died.

They would become an object of horror

because of what Manasseh led them into—and they still practiced.

Who was Manasseh?

2 Kings 21

He was the most evil of Judah’s kings. He led them to do things worse than the surrounding nations did.

Manasseh was Josiah’s grandfather.

2 Kings 22 and 23

When God’s Law was found in Josiah’s reign, he humbled his heart before the Lord, and it delayed judgment.

But it didn’t stop the coming judgment.

God was tired of relenting.

You might ask your group what they’ve learned from this study about His judgment. Give some time to discuss this.

Verses 5-9

What was the extent of the judgment?

No one to mourn or have pity for Jerusalem.
Bereaved of children, widows as numerous as the sand
Even survivors will be killed by the sword

How are chapters 13-15 different in their messages from the previous chapters?

Judgment had begun.

Verses 10-21

Who is the rest of this chapter about? Who is the conversation between?

Jeremiah complained in verse 10 that he wished he'd not been born.
Jeremiah and his message were looked on as causing strife and contention.
He was cursed because of his message of coming judgment.

The Lord answered in verses 11-14.

Verse 11 is promises to Jeremiah.

The Lord will free him.

Those who were his enemies will come to him in the time of distress.

Verses 12-14 seem to be the Lord speaking more to the people of Judah than to Jeremiah personally.

Then Jeremiah called for the Lord to avenge him.
He reminded the Lord of his hard life of loneliness.
Then he questioned if the Lord was unreliable.

The Lord answered Jeremiah by telling him to get right—to return.
He needed to extract the precious from the worthless in his own life.
Then he would be God's spokesman again.

The Lord repeated His promise from Jeremiah 1:17-19.

Ask about a possible theme for this chapter.

4 kinds of doom / destroyers—God was tired / weary of relenting

You might end this discussion by asking what the Lord thinks when believers have pity parties for themselves. Relate this to Jeremiah 12:5.

- 13 Made for glory
Refuse to listen
Worthless
No pity/ compassion from God
- 14 Drought, sword, famine, pestilence
God make an end
- 15 Death, sword, famine, captivity
God tired of relenting

JEREMIAH PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7

Lesson emphasis

- Jeremiah 16–18

REVIEW

You can begin this discussion, by asking your group to look at their At a Glance charts. Then guide them in a review by asking questions like the following:

What are the main messages in Jeremiah 2–12?

Bringing judgment from the north
You have forsaken Me, Return
Avenge Myself
Trust in deception, Idols—True Living God
Broke covenant, not listen

What are chapters 13–15 about?

Linen waistband / loincloth worthless / good for nothing—pride, shame
Drought, death / pestilence, sword, famine
God was tired of relenting

Where were the messages given?

At the temple gate
In the cities of Judah and Jerusalem's streets

Tell them to look at “Jeremiah, a Man Appointed by God” and ask what they learned about him.

The Lord appointed him before he was born, even formed in his mother's womb.
As a prophet to the nations and to Judah and Jerusalem.
His message was judgment coming from the north.

The reaction to his message was that his people fought against him.
The Lord promised to be with him and deliver him from their attacks.

He made him as a fortified city, a pillar of iron, walls of bronze.

He recorded his conversations with the Lord for us to read.
He questioned the message from the false prophets, and told the Lord how they had deceived the people.

He told the Lord how he was in anguish about the coming judgment on his people. He was filled with the message of God’s wrath and had to give it out.

God made him an assayer and tester among His people. Jeremiah wanted, at one time, to leave his people because they were all adulterers and treacherous.

He asked for the Lord to correct with His justice, not His wrath.

The Lord told him several times not to pray for His people.

He talked to the Lord about the plot against him by the men of Anathoth, his hometown, his father’s household.

God told him that he needed to be able to compete with horses, not just run with footmen. Things would get worse for him.

At the end of chapter 15, the Lord corrected Jeremiah for statements about His being unreliable. He was restored because he returned; he extracted the worthless from his attitude.

JEREMIAH 16

As you discuss chapters 16–18, you might record some of the main points concerning Jeremiah and the people and land of Judah. See a sample list at the end of this guide.

Verses 1-9

How does this chapter begin? What does it say about the man Jeremiah?

God told him not to marry or have children “in this place,” verse 2.

That place, Judah and Jerusalem, was about to suffer greatly.
All there would die, verse 4.

There are more references to the land of Judah in this chapter than any previous.
The focus in this chapter is what will happen in that place.

Jeremiah was not to mourn for those who died “in this land,” verses 5-6.

Again, Jeremiah was a picture of what was going to happen.

God withdrew His peace, lovingkindness / steadfast love, or compassion / mercy with them.

There would be no one left to mourn for the dead in Jerusalem, verses 6-7.

He was not to feast with the people, verse 8.

This was a picture of the Lord eliminating from the place voices of rejoicing and gladness, verse 9.

Verses 10-13

What are these verses about?

Their fathers forsook the Lord for other gods.
But the people of Jeremiah's time did worse than their fathers.
They didn't listen at all.

Several times in Jeremiah, words similar to "walk after the stubbornness of his evil heart" have been repeated. Chapters 2–16 describe that evil heart and the consequences of walking according to it.

So the Lord was going to hurl them out of the land.

His favor was also gone from them.

What are verses 14-15 about?

In the midst of destruction, there was a promise of restoration. As Jeremiah returned and was restored, 15:19, so the people of Judah will also be one day.

God will gather them from all the lands where they were scattered when He hurled them out of their own land. Then He'll restore them to their own land.

That's still future, although it was partially fulfilled when they returned from the Babylonian exile.

Contrast this with verses 16-18. What do these verses say?

Neither the people nor their sins could be hidden from the Lord.

They polluted His land, filled His inheritance with detestable idols.
So He was going to doubly repay them.

Who spoke verses 19-20? What does this say?

Jeremiah stated that God was his strength, stronghold, refuge in distress.

The same is true for believers now. This is something your group needs to remember if they are going to be prepared to compete with the horsemen.

This is more prophecy about the nations.

According to verse 21, what's the result?

God will make them know His power, might—His name is the LORD.

Ask about the theme of Jeremiah 16. Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart.

God will doubly repay, hurl them out of the land; restore

JEREMIAH 17

How does this continue the message of chapter 16?

It seems to explain why the Lord doubly repaid their iniquity.

Verses 1-11

What are these verses about?

Judah's sin is engraved on their heart.

Their gods were as dear to them as their children (ESV—their children remember their altars and their Asherim).

There's a contrast between verses 5-6 and verses 7-8.

Cursed—trust in mankind, heart away from the Lord

Blessed—trust in the Lord
Not anxious in drought

Jeremiah was to continue to trust in the Lord and not be anxious.
So are believers now.

Ask your group what they learned from their study about the *heart* and *trust*.

The people of Judah were called to circumcise themselves and wash their hearts because they had become evil, turned away from the Lord.

Their hearts were deceitful—like the words they trusted.
God searches the heart.

He repays men according to their ways and deeds.
The heart leads to deeds.

Judah trusted—put confidence in, had security in¹—their fortified cities, the temple, and falsehood, deception, and lies.

¹Warren Baker, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003, c2002). 128.

They put their hope in Egypt and Assyria instead of the Lord.

Give time for application discussion:

During times of distress, where is your trust?

Is there hope for a deceitful heart?

Verses 12-18

How do these verses contrast with the previous ones?

Only the Lord, His sanctuary, is the place of refuge.

Compare verse 13 with Jeremiah 2:13, 18-19.

It seems the people were mocking Jeremiah's words.
They didn't believe what he said.

Jeremiah's refuge was in the Lord.
The Lord was the shelter for this shepherd of Judah.
But no one listened; they persecuted him instead.

Verses 19-27

What are these verses about, and where was Jeremiah to say this? Discuss cross-references.

This message was given in the public / People's gate where kings came out and went in and in all the gates to Jerusalem. The message had to do with the people breaking the Sabbath.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

The Sabbath is a perpetual covenant between God and Israel.

It's a sign between God and Israel that they would know that He is the Lord their God who sanctifies them.

All who broke the Sabbath deserved death as punishment.

Verse 24 says that if they listened and obeyed, then Jerusalem would have future kings from David's line on the throne.

They didn't listen, and there has been no king of David's line on the throne since the Babylonians took Judah captive.

What is a possible theme for Jeremiah 17?

Trust in the Lord; Keep the Sabbath

JEREMIAH 18

What is this chapter about?

Another illustration of what the Lord was going to do with Judah was seen when Jeremiah went to the potter's house.

The vessel was made according to what the potter wanted.

What was the Lord's word from the potter's house?

Judah was like clay in His hands; He is the potter.

Jeremiah, after going to potter's house, was then to tell them that God was fashioning / shaping calamity / disaster against them. But He called them to turn back from evil.

They didn't—they had their own plans, against the Lord and against Jeremiah. They had forgotten the Lord, stumbled from the ancient paths / roads. Compare this with 6:16.

God said He'll scatter them and show them His back and not His face.

What were the plans against Jeremiah?

Strike at him with the tongue

Give no heed / not pay attention to any of his words

They reasoned that their priests still knew and kept God's law. They thought that His Word was not lost to their prophets—the ones who lied to them.

What was Jeremiah's response to the Lord about those who devised plans against him?

Give heed to / hear me, Lord.

He reasoned that they should be repaid for what they said. Jeremiah was right because what he was telling the people was from God. They weren't listening to the Lord.

He reminded the Lord of how he spoke good on behalf of the people; but no more. Jeremiah called for the Lord to bring His vengeance on the people, the very thing He said He was going to do. Like the Lord, Jeremiah also had no more compassion for those with evil hearts.

You might ask your group if they relate to Jeremiah in any way.

Ask what they noted as a theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Potter's house; God plans calamity; men's plans / plots against Jeremiah

JEREMIAH	JUDAH THE LAND	JUDAH THE PEOPLE
<p>No wife, children in this place</p> <p>Lord—strength, refuge</p> <p>Shepherd after God</p> <p>Persecuted</p> <p>“Give heed to me, O Lord”</p>	<p>People hurled out because they polluted it</p> <p>Filled with abomination Made a desolation</p> <p>Restored</p>	<p>God withdrew from them His peace lovingkindness compassion favor</p> <p>More evil than fathers</p> <p>Sin on hearts God searches hearts</p>

JEREMIAH PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 8

Lesson emphasis

- Jeremiah 19–21
- Kings of Judah

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they've learned from this study of Jeremiah. Help them understand that if they apply what they've learned, then they're listening to and heeding God's Word.

Then you might ask about where Jeremiah gave his messages and to whom.

In the temple gates to those who came to worship God, but also worshiped other gods

In the cities of Judah and Jerusalem's streets to all the people who had as many idols as cities and streets

In the public gates through which the king comes in and goes out of Jerusalem and in all Jerusalem's gates

All in Judah and Jerusalem had opportunity to hear what the Lord said through Jeremiah.

What did He say? What were the main points of his messages?

God was bringing judgment from the north.
Because His people Judah had forsaken Him.

He called them to return to Him.

Shall I not avenge Myself on a nation such as this?
They trust in deception and idols, not the true living God.

They broke His covenant, and didn't listen to His Word.

So He would destroy their pride by drought, death / pestilence, sword, and famine.
He withdrew His compassion for them, and His plans against them were beginning—
plans for calamity.

On the kings, priests, prophets, and people—all from great to small

JEREMIAH 19

Tell your group to look at their map of Jerusalem as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Verses 1-9

Where did the Lord tell Jeremiah to give this message and to whom?

The valley of Ben/Son of-hinnom, Valley of Topheth

To the elders and senior / elders of priests

NOTE: The valley of Ben-hinnom was filled with blood because that's where the child sacrifices to Molech (2 Kings 23:10) and Baal (Jeremiah 19:5) were made.

What was the illustration? What was the message?

Break an earthenware jar / flask; can't be repaired
Relate this to the place and illustration in Jeremiah 18.

The Lord said He would break the people, the city, the Valley of Topheth.
They were beyond repair at that point.

According to the uses of “because” in this chapter, why did the Lord do this?

They have forsaken Me

Other gods

Not heed (ESV—refused to listen to) My words

These reasons are repeated from Jeremiah 1–18. The Lord said the same thing many times in several places to many people during Jeremiah's years of speaking for him.

What is referred to again in verse 9, and how does it relate to verses 1-8?

The siege, in which the people in Jerusalem would eat their children's flesh
The Lord's judgments fitted their sins against Him.

Verses 10-15

What did Jeremiah do with the earthenware jar / flask? Why?

He broke it to show the people what God was about to do to Jerusalem.

Where else did Jeremiah go and speak in this chapter?

In the court of the Lord's house he gave the message of coming calamity he'd given to the elders and senior priests in verse 3.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask what they noted as a possible theme for Jeremiah 19.

God will break Jerusalem like potter's jar / vessel

JEREMIAH 20

Verses 1-6

Who heard the message, and what was his response?

Pashhur, a priest, chief officer in the Lord's house
Verse 6 says he was also a false prophet to the people.

He had Jeremiah beaten and for a day put in stocks near the Lord's house.

When released the next day, Jeremiah told Pashhur what the Lord said.
The Lord called Pashhur "Magor-missabib¹ / Terror on Every Side."

He and all around him faced the terror of exile and death in Babylon.
This is the first time in Jeremiah that Babylon is mentioned by name.

You might tell your group to look at it on their "Map of Nations Surrounding Israel."

Verses 7-18

What did Jeremiah talk to the Lord about?

Again Jeremiah poured out to the Lord his feelings and thoughts. He knew from the time the Lord appointed him as a prophet, Jeremiah 1, that it was to be a hard life. He was told in chapter 1 not to fear or be dismayed by his people—they would fight against him.

Verse 7 says everyone mocked him. Verse 10 repeats "terror on every side" as though what he said was mocked by those who heard it.

There's repetition from other parts of Jeremiah in these verses. He was rejected by all around him, and at times he felt / wished he'd not been born. But then when he tried to hold in God's word he couldn't.

The Lord promised twice in chapter 1 that He was with Jeremiah to deliver him.
But Jeremiah had several talks with the Lord about his situation and feelings.

Some of those feelings were brought on by knowing what his people and his city faced.

It seems that he focused on the Lord in verses 11-13, and then again began to focus on himself in verses 14-18.

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Jer 20:3) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

You might ask your group what they learned about the Lord from verses 7-18. Discuss application.

Jeremiah said the Lord was with him like a dread champion / warrior.

The Lord of hosts tests the righteous.

He sees the mind and the heart. He delivers the soul / life of the needy ones.

Ask about a possible theme for this chapter.

Jeremiah beaten and put in stocks

JEREMIAH 21

Verses 1-2

Who was king of Judah? When was this message given?

During Zedekiah's reign

What is this chapter about?

Zedekiah sent two men to inquire of the Lord through Jeremiah.
They wanted the Lord to do some wonderful work to save them from Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar had already begun the last siege against Jerusalem.

They had obviously not paid attention to the messages the Lord sent through Jeremiah about coming judgment and captivity. They were looking for Him to save them. But the time had come for them to pay the consequences of their sins.

Verses 3-14

What was the message Jeremiah sent back to King Zedekiah?

The Lord will war against them. Instead of a wonderful act to make the enemy withdraw, He will actually bring them into the city of Jerusalem.

There'll be pestilence in the city which will cause people and animals to die.

After that, God will give Zedekiah and all who survive in the city to Nebuchadnezzar. He'll strike them without pity or compassion.

Verse 8 begins a message to the people. What is that about?

He set a choice before them—life or death.

Life to those who leave the city and go out to Nebuchadnezzar
Death to those who stay in the city

What's the message to the king of Judah beginning in verse 11?

Administer / execute justice and deliver the oppressed.
The result is God's wrath not burning.

It seems that it's another call to repentance.

But then He said their punishment was according to the fruit of their deeds.
Justice from Him toward them

What is a possible theme for chapter 21?

Zedekiah and Jerusalem given to Nebuchadnezzar

You might end this discussion by asking what your group learned from the "Jeremiah, a Man Appointed by God" chart.

What application is there from this lesson?

JEREMIAH PART 1

LEADER GUIDE

Lesson 9

Lesson emphasis

- Jeremiah 22–24
- Shepherds of Judah

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they remember about the previous chapters in Jeremiah. Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Jeremiah 1

This chapter is a foundation for the others studied in this course. It's like an overview of Jeremiah and his messages to Judah.

Jeremiah 2–6

These chapters contain two messages about Judah forsaking the Lord, His call for them to return, and the coming judgment for not returning. They weren't willing to turn to Him with their whole heart. God was going to avenge Himself on them.

Jeremiah 7–10

This is a message delivered at the temple about trusting in deceptive words, the temple, false gods. The contrast in chapter 10 is with the truth of the living God.

Jeremiah 11–17

This section begins with messages delivered in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem. They broke the covenant and didn't listen to the Lord. So He was going to uproot them. Their pride made them worthless like the waistband. God's judgment was coming on them—drought, sword, famine, and pestilence. He would give to each man according to the deeds from his heart.

Jeremiah 18–20

These chapters begin with Jeremiah at the potter's house where he repeated his message about being uprooted. Then at the Valley of Hinnom he broke a potter's jar to show what was going to happen to Jerusalem. The result was a beating and stocks. Exile to Babylon is first mentioned in these chapters. God repeats that He's going to bring calamity because His people forsook Him.

Jeremiah 21

This chapter begins a focus on the kings of Judah. The Lord admonished the house of David to administer / execute justice that His wrath would not go forth like fire.

JEREMIAH 22

Who is this chapter about?

The kings of Judah, David's descendants, of Jeremiah's time

Where did Jeremiah deliver this message?

The king's house

Direct your group to look at the chart in the lesson as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Verses 1-10

What is the message regarding them?

It seems that verses 2-4 restate 21:12, but explain more about it.

If the kings did justice and righteousness, then they would continue on David's throne.

Contrast with verses 5-7.

If they didn't obey—which they didn't—the king's house where Jeremiah prophesied (22:1), made of the cedars of Lebanon, would become a desolation.

Discuss the question and answer in verses 8-9.

What is verse 10 about?

Those exiled, the kings of Judah, will never return to their land of Judah.

Who are verses 11-12 about? What does this say about him? Also discuss what 2 Kings 23:30-34 says about him.

Shallum, Jehoahaz
Josiah's son who ruled for 3 months after Josiah died.

The people of Judah made him king when Josiah died, but he was an evil king.

Pharaoh Neco of Egypt imprisoned him and took him to Egypt where he died.

Who are verses 13-17 about?

One of Josiah's sons; some think this is Shallum, but others believe it refers to Jehoiakim. His eyes and heart were on gain—extortion, oppression, dishonest gain.

Who was Jehoiakim contrasted with in verses 15-16? What is the contrast?

His father Josiah practiced justice and righteousness as king.

He took care of the needy and afflicted.

Give time for application discussion here, especially what it means to know God, verses 15-16.

Who are verses 18-19 about? Also, ask about 2 Kings 23:34-24:6.

When Pharaoh Neco took Jehoahaz away, he made his brother king of Judah.

His name was Eliakim, but Neco changed it to Jehoiakim.

He reigned 11 years as king, doing evil.

After paying tribute to Pharaoh Neco, Jehoiakim came under Nebuchadnezzar's power after Babylon defeated Egypt.

After serving Babylon for three years, Jehoiakim rebelled.

During his time as king, Chaldeans, Arameans, Moabites, and Ammonites fought against Judah. The Lord was against Jehoiakim.

Jeremiah said no one would lament his death. Like a donkey he would be dragged off and thrown outside Jerusalem.

What are verses 20-23 about?

It seems this is what the Lord told Jeremiah about Jerusalem.

The wind will sweep away all her shepherds—leaders, including her kings.

The Lord spoke to Jerusalem in time of prosperity, but they didn't listen.

So times of distress were upon the city.

Her lovers all around her were also going into captivity.
Babylon took all.

Captivity should result in shame and humiliation for their wickedness from their youth.

Who was the last king mentioned in verses 24-30?

Coniah, also known as Jehoiachin, was another king who ruled only 3 months.
He was Jehoiakim's son.

He's the king referred to in Jeremiah 13:18, he and his mother.

2 Kings 24:8-16

He and his mother went out to Nebuchadnezzar, probably the result of a 3-month siege in 597 B.C.

Nebuchadnezzar then took him and his mother captive to Babylon where he lived until his death.

Then Nebuchadnezzar made his uncle, Mattaniah, Josiah's son, king in his place, changing his name to Zedekiah. He was Judah's last king.

Jeremiah 22 says that even if Coniah were a signet on God's right hand, He would pull him off and give him to Nebuchadnezzar. He and his descendants / children were hurled out of their own country to go to Babylon. He didn't return to his own land.

Relate verse 28, the shattered jar / broken pot and an undesirable vessel (ESV—no one cares for) to Jeremiah 18:1-6 and 19:1, 10-11.

Verse 30 says none of his descendants / offspring would return to Judah to sit on David's throne as king of Judah. And none have even until now.

You might ask your group to evaluate who / what they are trusting in.

Not only was the king taken away, but so were his treasures, as it says in Jeremiah 20:5. Everything was gone, even the temple treasures.

Nebuchadnezzar left none but the poorest to live in the land of Judah.

Judah trusted in deceptive words and mankind; they paid the price for it.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for Jeremiah 22.

Lord's word to Shallum, Jehoiakim, Coniah

JEREMIAH 23

What / who is this chapter about?

Woe to Judah's shepherds, including the kings, prophets, and priests.

Verses 1-8

How does this continue from chapter 22? What's the context?

The kings of Judah

They were destroying and scattering God's sheep.

Therefore, He was about to tend to them for not tending His sheep.
This seems to be a continuation of the message in chapter 22.

Here is another time Jeremiah states the justice of God’s judgment, repayment.

The Lord Himself will gather His flock from the nations and raise up shepherds to properly tend them. Compare this with Jeremiah 3:15.

When are verses 5-6 about?

Days are coming—future—when the Lord will raise up a King from David’s line to rule in wisdom, justice, and righteousness.

Compare with Jeremiah 4:1-2; 9:23-26; 21:12; 22:2-3, 13-15.

What will happen when the righteous Branch of David is raised up as King?

Judah will be saved, and Israel will live securely on their land.

Those things have not happened yet. This time is still future.

The Branch, the King who is of David’s line, is also named “the Lord our righteousness.”

NOTE: Some in your group might recognize this as being about Jesus’ second coming. Others might not. Don’t let them discuss beyond what this text says about it.

What else will happen when these days come, verses 7-8?

They will refer to the Lord as the one who brought them from the north and all other countries, in the same way He was referred to as the one who brought them out of Egypt.

They’ll be secure living on their own soil / land.

Verses 9-40

Who are these verses about? Discuss what your group learned.

Prophets of Judah

Verses 9-10 are about Jeremiah.

Then the Lord spoke in verse 11 and forward.

Jeremiah had God’s holy words, contrasted with the prophets and priests of Judah who were wicked / ungodly, evil even in God’s house.

Another comparison is in verses 13-14.

prophets of Samaria, northern kingdom of Israel
prophesied by Baal
led people astray

prophets of Jerusalem, southern kingdom of Judah
adultery, falsehood / lies
strengthen evildoers
no one turned back from wickedness / evil

Therefore, what was the justice coming from the Lord on them?

Drink poisonous water because of their polluting the people.

What is the contrast in verses 16-22?

The prophets' words and God's Word

The prophets' words led the people to futility / vain hopes because their words came from visions of their own hearts. They continued to say peace and that calamity would not come.

Jeremiah prophesied God's Word of coming wrath.
True prophets speak His Word to turn people back to Him.

Give time to discuss application of this and what your group learned about the Lord in verses 23-24.

What are verses 25-32 about?

The prophets told their dreams, which were falsehood / lies and deception from their own hearts.

The same happens now, and the same results—people listen to them instead of to the Lord's Words.

They cause people to forget God's name, lead them astray.
They don't furnish the people the slightest benefit.

The same results apply now.

Ask what your group learned about the oracle / burden in verses 33-40.

The Lord's oracle / burden is that He'll soon abandon them.
Punishment on those who say they have His oracle / burden.

So many were claiming to speak for the Lord that His Word was forgotten.
The same happens now.

Verse 36 uses the term “the living God” which was also in chapter 10.
The living God was Judah’s God, but they forsook Him, forgot Him.

So He was going to forget them and bring reproach and humiliation / shame on them.

The shepherds, the leaders of Judah, were leading His people astray.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Woe to the shepherds

JEREMIAH 24

What is this chapter about? When?

After Jeconiah and officials, craftsmen, and smiths / metal workers were taken to
Babylon

That was 597 B.C.

The Lord showed Jeremiah two baskets of figs set before the temple.
He asked him what he saw; then He explained the meaning.

Compare this with Jeremiah 1:11-15.

The Lord showed Jeremiah two things, asked what he saw, and then explained the
meaning of each.

Tell your group to look at the chart in the lesson as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

What was the explanation of the two baskets of figs?

Good figs

The captives / exiles of Judah, sent out by the Lord to the land of the Chaldeans
God set His eye on them for good.

He’ll bring them again to the land;

build up and plant, not overthrow / tear down or pluck up.

The Lord will also give them a heart to know Him.

They’ll be His people, and He’ll be their God.

They’ll return to Him with their whole heart.

Bad figs

The Lord will abandon Zedekiah,
his officials
and the remnant of Jerusalem who remain in the land
and the ones who go live in Egypt.

He'll make them a terror / horror, evil for all the kingdoms,
as a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse where He scatters them.
He'll send sword, famine, and pestilence on them until destroyed from the land.

Compare the good figs with Jeremiah 21:8-9.

The Lord told the people during Zedekiah's reign, that those who stayed in Jerusalem would die by sword, famine, and pestilence, but the ones who went out to the Chaldeans would live.

The ones who went out compare with the good figs. It seems that at this point they believed at least some of what the Lord said through Jeremiah. At that time, Nebuchadnezzar had already come against Jerusalem twice.

What king was taken away to Babylon, verse 1? Compare this with Jeremiah 22:24-30.

Chapter 24 begins with saying that Jeconiah was taken captive to Babylon.
But he was not regarded as good by the Lord.
He was to die in Babylon, never return to his land.

What seems to be the time of the complete fulfillment for the good figs, especially verse 7?

Israel has not yet returned to the Lord with a whole heart. It seems still future.
The time of 23:5-8 and 4:1-2.

Ask about a theme for chapter 24.

Good and bad figs

You can end your discussion by asking your group how God spoke to them as they studied Jeremiah 1–24.