

JEREMIAH:

FINDING GOD IN CHAOS



JON KEHRER | 12 SESSIONS

**NEXT
LEVEL** 
ONLINE
OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Jeremiah: Finding God in Chaos

Session 1: Jeremiah 1

Session Notes:

① **How would you summarize the message of Jeremiah 1?**

② **What about this text or about Jeremiah's call resonated with you?**

- How have you experienced loss or trauma in your life? Can you relate to the experience as "disorienting"?

③ **Read Psalm 23. How does this text speak to God's presence with his people in the midst of difficult times?**

④ **Do you believe that God walks with you in the midst of your pain? How would your life be different if you *really* believed that?**

⑤ **Do you consistently meditate on the fact that God is with you, even in your pain? What would it look like to think about that every day this week?**

- Additional Ideas for Practicing Faith: Consider adding an alarm to your phone or watch every day this week to remind you to meditate on the presence of God in your life.

Jeremiah: Finding God in Chaos

Session 2: Jeremiah 2

Session Notes:

① How would you summarize the message of Jeremiah 2?

② Which of the metaphors from Jeremiah 2 resonated most with how God has worked in your life?

- Are there any other metaphors that come to your mind about your relationship with God in the past?

③ Read Deuteronomy 32:7-14. How is God's relationship with his people described there?

- Now read Deuteronomy 32:15-38. How is this similar to God's words in Jeremiah 2?

④ What metaphor best describes your relationship with God currently? How could you press in to the Lord more fully during this season of your life?

⑤ Spend some time this week asking the Lord for wisdom and guidance to know how to align your heart more closely with his.

- Additional Ideas for Practicing Faith: Spend thirty minutes or so charting out a timeline of your spiritual journey. How have you seen God work? How can you respond to that today?

Jeremiah: Finding God in Chaos

Session 3: Jeremiah 7:1-8:3

Session Notes:

- ① **How would you summarize the message of Jeremiah 7:1-8:3?**
- ② **The video discussed several forms of improper worship. Were any of these surprising for you? Why or why not?**
- ③ **Read Mark 7:1-13. What were some forms of improper worship in use by the religious leaders in Jesus' day?**
- ④ **Think about your own worship. While you may not be offering sacrifices to the Queen of Heaven, in what ways have you trusted in human-built structures rather than in the Lord?**
- ⑤ **Consider taking some time this week to reflect on your worship. Ask the Lord for help in aligning your heart more closely with his.**
 - **Additional Ideas for Practicing Faith:** Experiment with a new form of worship this week. Consider visiting a church outside of your typical worship experience. How can you see God's hand at work in these types of worship that are different from your typical mode of worship?

Jeremiah: Finding God in Chaos

Session 4: Jeremiah 8:4-9:22

Session Notes:

- ① **How would you summarize the message of Jeremiah 8:4-9:22?**
- ② **How have you experienced grief in the past? Do you find it difficult to weep over heartbreak and tragedy, even in your own life?**
- ③ **It may be difficult for us to think about God expressing lament and grief over fallen Jerusalem. Is lament or grief something you typically think of God expressing? Why or why not?**
 - Read John 11:28-37. How did Jesus respond to loss in the story? How is that similar or different from Jeremiah 8-9?
- ④ **Sometimes, we move too quickly through grief. Are there any losses in your life that you need to recognize, go back to, and grieve? Think about how this text might help you as you allow yourself to feel the grief of loss once again.**
- ⑤ **How does it change your life knowing that God walks with his people even in the midst of their pain?**
 - Additional Ideas for Practicing Faith: Spend one hour this week alone with the Lord. Ask him if there are any emotions, losses, or pains to explore together. Consider reading this text again during that time and journaling your thoughts.

Jeremiah: Finding God in Chaos

Session 5: Jeremiah 17:1-13

Session Notes:

- ① **How would you summarize the message of Jeremiah 17:1-13?**
- ② **What ideas or images stood out to you from this text?**
- ③ **Read Psalm 1. How is this similar to this text? How is it different?**
 - If you were to describe your spiritual life with an agricultural metaphor (flourishing oak tree, dry cactus in the desert, withering rose bush, etc.), what image would you choose and why?
- ④ **Do you really believe that it is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in humans? List out some reasons why trusting in God is best.**
- ⑤ **How would your life look different this week if you chose to trust in the Lord in every situation? What barriers do you think you might encounter in doing that?**
 - Additional Ideas for Practicing Faith: Take a walk through nature and meditate on Jeremiah 17. Spend some time noticing trees or bushes, and ask the Lord to meet you in that time.

Jeremiah: Finding God in Chaos

Session 6: Jeremiah 18:1-17

Session Notes:

- ① **How would you summarize the message of Jeremiah 18:1-17?**
- ② **What stood out to you from this text?**
- ③ **Read Genesis 1. How is God pictured at work in creation? Make a list of his characteristics and attributes.**
- ④ **Do you regularly recognize God's sovereignty over all of life? What would it look like for you to take a step this week to trust more fully in the sovereignty of God?**
- ⑤ **Think about a big decision you will need to make this week. How could you take a step towards trusting God more in the midst of that decision? What obstacles do you think you will face as you try to trust him more fully?**
 - **Additional Ideas for Practicing Faith:** Search online for a video with a potter working at a wheel. As you watch the video, ask the Lord to speak into your heart like he did to Jeremiah.

Jeremiah: Finding God in Chaos

Session 7: Jeremiah 29:1-14

Session Notes:

- ① **How would you summarize the message of Jeremiah 29:1-14?**
 - ② **Have you heard parts of this text before, like Jeremiah 29:11? If so, how does it change the message when you hear it in its original context?**
 - ③ **Read Psalm 88:1-7. How does the Psalmist feel in this text? How could this be similar to the feelings of the exiles?**
 - ④ **Do you have a hard time trusting God in the midst of your darkness and pain? How does this text speak to God's presence in those places?**
 - ⑤ **How could you trust God in the midst of your life this week? What specific verse from Jeremiah 29 could serve as inspiration for an act of trust for you?**
- **Additional Ideas for Practicing Faith:** Do an inductive study on the word "hope" in the book of Psalms. To do this, use a Bible concordance, Bible software, or an online Bible website and search for the word "hope" in Psalms. Read each occurrence of the word, and notice what the book has to say about it. Summarize your observations about hope in 2-3 sentences.

Jeremiah: Finding God in Chaos

Session 8: Jeremiah 31:1-34

Session Notes:

- ① **How would you summarize the message of Jeremiah 31:1-34?**
- ② **Which of the pictures of renewal most resonated with you? Why?**
- ③ **Read Hebrews 8. How does the writer of Hebrews use this text from Jeremiah?**
- ④ **Do you believe that God could renew you? What areas of your life are most in need of God's renewal?**
 - What barriers do you think you will face if you invite God in to renew these areas?
- ⑤ **Jesus has initiated the new covenant with us. How could you celebrate his sacrifice this week?**
 - Additional Ideas for Practicing Faith: Search online for the painting, *Christ Carrying the Cross* by Tiziano Vecellio. Spend some time meditating on Jesus' sacrifice for us while reading Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Jeremiah: Finding God in Chaos

Session 9: Jeremiah 36

Session Notes:

- ① **How would you summarize the message of Jeremiah 36?**
- ② **What elements of the story stood out to you?**
- ③ **Read 2 Kings 23:36-24:7. How is Jehoiakim described in that text? What do we learn about his character and actions from these texts?**
- ④ **Jehoiakim joined a long line of world rulers who tried to silence God's word. Read Isaiah 40:6-8. What does this remind us about the Word of God?**
 - Now read 1 Peter 1:22-25. What impact does the Word of God have on us?
- ⑤ **How could you honor the Word of God in your life this week?**
 - Additional Ideas for Practicing Faith: Spend some time meditating on how many individuals were responsible for copying and preserving the words of Jeremiah through the centuries so that you can read this story in your Bible today. Write a prayer of thanks to God for preserving his Word.

Jeremiah: Finding God in Chaos

Session 10: Jeremiah 39:1-40:6

Session Notes:

- ① **How would you summarize the message of Jeremiah 39:1-40:6?**
- ② **The book of Jeremiah has predicted this moment from chapter 1. How did it strike you to finally read about the destruction of the city?**
- ③ **Read Jeremiah 52. How does this text provide a fuller or different picture of Jerusalem's destruction?**
- ④ **Although this tragedy was predictable, God was still faithful. How have you seen God faithful through the book of Jeremiah?**
 - Jeremiah's ministry involved faithful service. What kind of faithful service is God calling you into in your own life?
- ⑤ **What would it look like for you to choose faithful service to the Lord instead of a comfortable life? Spend some time this week thinking through some ideas.**
 - Additional Ideas for Practicing Faith: Spend some time this week reading about Christian martyrs who gave their life for their faith. Check out recent books with stories of martyrs, or find a copy of the classic *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* online. How do these stories help you remain faithful to the Lord in the midst of your own trials and struggles?

Jeremiah: Finding God in Chaos

Session 11: Jeremiah 44

Session Notes:

- ① **How would you summarize the message of Jeremiah 44?**
- ② **What similarities do you see between God's word in Jeremiah 44 and earlier sections of Jeremiah?**
- ③ **Spend some time reading through Deuteronomy 28:15-68. How have the covenant curses come on the people because of their disobedience?**
- ④ **If God sent a prophet to you this week, what problems or issues might he address in your life? Consider how you might respond to the word of the Lord in your current situation.**
- ⑤ **Praise the Lord that the sacrifice of Jesus covers our sin and rebellion. What are some ways you can give thanks for the Lord's forgiveness this week?**
 - **Additional Ideas for Practicing Faith:** On a sheet of paper, make a list of all the ways you have turned away from the Lord in the last 3 months. Now, surrender that list to the Lord, and then destroy the paper as a sign of how Jesus has covered your sins.

Jeremiah: Finding God in Chaos

Session 12: Jeremiah 46-51

Session Notes:

- ① **How would you summarize the message of Jeremiah 46-51?**
- ② **How does this section provide any comfort or hope for the people of Judah?**
- ③ **Read Jeremiah 25:15-29. What is the cup of God's wrath? Why do the nations drink it?**
- ④ **Before his crucifixion, Jesus asked God to let the cup pass from him (see Matthew 26:36-46). Do you think this was the cup of God's wrath? Why or why not?**
 - What does it mean that Jesus drank from the cup and endured death? What implications are there for us?
- ⑤ **The message of Jeremiah involves trusting in the Lord; this seems to be the answer to finding God in chaos. What would it look like for you to take steps this week to trust Jesus in the midst of your chaos?**
 - Additional Ideas for Practicing Faith: Take a day of solitude away from your busy life to be by yourself. Spend time reflecting on the message of Jeremiah, and ask the Lord to help you sort through the chaos of your own life as you trust him.

This video was made possible with support from:

