



01

JEREMIAH 1:4-19

WHEN GOD CALLS



THIS WEEK'S focus

God created us, and He has amazing plans for each of our lives. Even now, God calls us to bring His goodness and love into our homes, our schools, our churches, and our communities. When God began showing Jeremiah the call on his life, Jeremiah was a bit insecure. He felt like he was too young and too inexperienced for God's call—and on his own, he was! Jeremiah had to learn that whatever God's call demands, God's hand supplies. God promised to give Jeremiah the right words to speak and to protect him from anything that would hold him back from God's call. Perhaps most encouraging was God's promise to be with Jeremiah. Nothing is impossible when God is at your side. We can live out God's call on us because He's always with us and will provide everything we need to obey Him.



CENTRAL truth

God supplies what His call requires.



EXPLORE

scripture

JEREMIAH 1:4-19

JEREMIAH 1:4-8

4 The word of the LORD came to me: **5** I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations. **6** But I protested, “Oh no, Lord GOD! Look, I don’t know how to speak since I am only a youth.” **7** Then the

LORD said to me: Do not say, “I am only a youth,” for you will go to everyone I send you to and speak whatever I tell you. **8** Do not be afraid of anyone, for I will be with you to rescue you. This is the LORD’s declaration.

JEREMIAH 1:11-16

9 Then the LORD reached out his hand, touched my mouth, and told me: I have now filled your mouth with my words. **10** See, I have appointed you today over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and demolish, to build and plant. **11** Then the word of the LORD came to me, asking, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” I replied, “I see a branch of an almond tree.” **12** The LORD said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I watch over my word to accomplish it.” **13** Again the word of the LORD came to me asking, “What do you see?” And I replied, “I see a boiling pot, its lip tilted from the north

to the south.” **14** Then the LORD said to me, “Disaster will be poured out from the north on all who live in the land. **15** Indeed, I am about to summon all the clans and kingdoms of the north.” This is the LORD’s declaration. They will come, and each king will set up his throne at the entrance to Jerusalem’s gates. They will attack all her surrounding walls and all the other cities of Judah. **16** “I will pronounce my judgments against them for all the evil they did when they abandoned me to burn incense to other gods and to worship the works of their own hands.

JEREMIAH 1:17-19

17 “Now, get ready. Stand up and tell them everything that I command you. Do not be intimidated by them or I will cause you to cower before them. **18** Today, I am the one who has made you a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls against the whole land

— against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the population. **19** They will fight against you but never prevail over you, since I am with you to rescue you.” This is the LORD’s declaration.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JEREMIAH 1:5

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JEREMIAH 1:4-8

DWELL

Jeremiah felt inadequate to be who God called him to be—and on his own, he was!. But Jeremiah would have the ultimate secret weapon for a faithful and fruitful life in God: God Himself. Nothing God calls us to is impossible when God is with us. Whatever we aren't, God always is. Whatever we lack, God always possesses. Whatever we need, whoever we need, whenever we need it, God will supply by His grace for the fulfillment of His plan. From start to finish, we're called to believe what God says and receive what God gives.



How can we, as imperfect limited people, accomplish the plans of the perfect, limitless God?



What makes you feel inadequate to fully follow God's plans for you? How can you pray for Him to give you what you need?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 1:5 in a journal each day this week and read it aloud 2–3 times. If you'd like, you can decorate the margins with doodles related to the verse..

PRAY

Tell God about any ways you feel inadequate to obey His plans. Thank Him that He formed you, knows you, and has set you apart for His plans. Thank Him that it's His grace that will empower you to live in His plans.

day 2

JEREMIAH 1:9-16

DWELL

With these visions, Jeremiah was prepped and ready to begin speaking God's message. Jeremiah wasn't given everything he'd ever need in those visions, just what he needed to get started. Like He did for Jeremiah, God will give us the revelation and resources we need to get started in His plans. As we take steps of trust and obedience, God will continue to provide all we need for all He has called us to do over our lifetimes.

↑ What can God's preparation in Jeremiah's life teach us about His desire for us to succeed in His plans?

→ What kinds of attitudes or actions need to be planted and nurtured in your life? What needs to be uprooted?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 1:5 on a note card and post it somewhere you'll see it regularly, or save it as the lock screen on your phone. Say it aloud 2–3 times whenever you see it.

PRAY

Thank God that His plans and desires are for your highest good. Ask Him to show you any attitudes and actions that need to be uprooted in your life and others that need to be planted and nurtured.

day 3

JEREMIAH 1:17-19

DWELL

God promised Jeremiah trials, but He also promised him triumph. The Lord said, "They will fight against you but never prevail over you, since I am with you to rescue you" (v. 19). Well, that's pretty much game over for the opposition, isn't it? Jeremiah would be defied, but never defeated. He would be countered, but never conquered. Come any trial, we will always triumph in God's plan for us if we trust in the God who never loses.

↓ Why does God allow us to go through difficult things as we follow His plans for us?

↔ How should we pray when we're going through trials or difficult seasons? How can we encourage others who are in difficult seasons?

MEMORIZE

Every time you wash your hands today, say as much of Jeremiah 1:5 aloud as you can remember.

PRAY

Thank God that He is with you in every trial and will use every trial to make you stronger in Him. As you go through difficult situations today and this week, ask Him to comfort and encourage you.

day 4

ACTS 4:13-14

DWELL

When Jesus first called Simon and Andrew, He didn't say, "Follow Me and make yourselves fishers of people." He said, "I will make you" (Mark 1:17). The word translated *make* in Mark 1:17 means to form, produce, cause, or accomplish something.¹ As we follow Jesus, He forms us into what He created us to be. The nation's top religious scholars were astounded by the boldness and wisdom of Peter and John. Then, they realized the reason: Peter and John had spent years with Jesus. We follow, and He forms. We become what He began as we believe.



Read Mark 1:16-18. What sticks out to you about the fishermen's response to Jesus's call to follow Him?



What are some specific ways you can follow Jesus today or this week?

MEMORIZE

Ask 2–3 people today if you can practice reciting Jeremiah 1:5 for them.

PRAY

Today, declare your trust to God that He will form you into what He created you to be for His glory and the good of the world.

¹ Strong, James. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (1890), s.v. "4160. ποιέω." Bible Hub. <https://biblehub.com/greek/4160.htm>.

day 5

ACTS 26:12-19

DWELL

The apostle Paul lived an odd, yet spectacular, life—and it wasn't his idea. When Jesus spoke to Paul on the Damascus road (see Acts 9:1-9), He told Paul about God's plans for his life. Strangely, God's plans for Paul were almost the complete opposite of how he had been living up until that point. Yet, by God's grace, Paul said "yes" to God's plans. God has an important part for you to play in His eternal plans, too! He created you on purpose and for purpose. As you seek to love and honor Him, He will show you His amazing plans for you in each season of your life—including this one!



How did Paul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus change the direction of his life?



What can God use in your life right now to glorify Him and bring His goodness to others?

MEMORIZE

Write out each of the words of Jeremiah 1:5 on note cards or scraps of paper, and mix them up. See if you can put them in the correct order from memory.

PRAY

Ask the Lord to show you what He can use in your life right now to glorify Him and bring His goodness to others. Ask Him to use your life for His plans.