

02

JEREMIAH 2:1-13

A DISLOYAL PEOPLE



THIS WEEK'S focus

We all have deep longings inside of us: longings for love, joy, peace, meaning, relationships, and more. Those longings are hardwired into us by God. They're good desires, meant to be satisfied in this life and in the life to come with God. But things go wrong when we try to satisfy these longings apart from God. We build relationships, hobbies, jobs, festivals, fast food joints, technologies, and so on to quench our cravings. If we're not paying attention, God can be cast aside, and these created things can become "gods" to us. We'll probably find some short-term happiness, but the deep, real love, joy, and meaning we long for will evade us. We were created to know, love, enjoy, and glorify the living God. We can't truly quench our thirst unless He is first in our lives.



CENTRAL **truth**

Nothing can replace God.



EXPLORE

scripture

JEREMIAH 2:1-13

JEREMIAH 2:1-3

1 The word of the LORD came to me: **2** “Go and announce directly to Jerusalem that this is what the LORD says: I remember the loyalty of your youth, your love as a bride — how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land

not sown. **3** Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest. All who ate of it found themselves guilty; disaster came on them.” This is the LORD’s declaration.

JEREMIAH 2:4-8

4 Hear the word of the LORD, house of Jacob and all families of the house of Israel.

5 This is what the LORD says: What fault did your ancestors find in me that they went so far from me, followed worthless idols, and became worthless themselves?

6 They stopped asking, “Where is the LORD who brought us from the land of Egypt, who led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and ravines, through a land

of drought and darkness, a land no one traveled through and where no one lived?”

7 I brought you to a fertile land to eat its fruit and bounty, but after you entered, you defiled my land; you made my inheritance detestable. **8** The priests quit asking, “Where is the LORD?” The experts in the law no longer knew me, and the rulers rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal and followed useless idols.

JEREMIAH 2:9-13

9 “Therefore, I will bring a case against you again. This is the LORD’s declaration. I will bring a case against your children’s children.

10 Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and take a look. Send someone to Kedar and consider carefully; see if there has ever been anything like this: **11** Has a nation ever exchanged its gods? (But they were not gods!) Yet

my people have exchanged their Glory for useless idols. **12** Be appalled at this, heavens; be shocked and utterly desolated! This is the LORD’s declaration. **13** For my people have committed a double evil: They have abandoned me, the fountain of living water, and dug cisterns for themselves — cracked cisterns that cannot hold water.”

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JEREMIAH 2:5

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 2:1-3

DWELL

After 430 years of captivity in Egypt, Israel had gladly escaped and walked out a free people to serve only the one true God. As they left, Israel's heart was loyal and solely focused on loving the Lord, like a bride walking down the aisle toward her groom on their wedding day. It was a joyous occasion, one of Israel's finest moments in all their history. It was just a free people with a good God. So simple and so profoundly satisfying. How had that all gone so wrong?



Why did God love Israel so much? Why does He love us so much, even when we make mistakes?



What are ways you can show your love to God in response to His love for you this week?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 2:5 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

Thank the Father for His loyal love for you. Ask His Spirit to fill you with His love and empower you to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.

day 2

JEREMIAH 2:4-8

DWELL

Instead of becoming empty through idol worship, worshipping God transforms us to become more like Him. Second Corinthians 3:18 tells us that as we fix our eyes on Christ, His Spirit transforms us to become more like Him. God's Spirit produces in our lives all the things we most deeply long to be (see Gal. 5:22-23). The Bible is filled with men and women who became people of substance, character, mission, meaning, and legacy as they dedicated their lives to the glory of God and the good of others.

↓ Can people truly choose not to worship anything? Or will they always worship something? Explain.

→ What are you tempted to place before God with your thoughts, passions, and actions?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 2:5 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

Talk to God about anything that you think might be an idol in your life. Repent and ask God for His loving, willing forgiveness. Commit to devoting your life to serving and loving Jesus Christ.

day 3

JEREMIAH 2:9-13

DWELL

The northern kingdom of Israel had long since been humiliated by enemy nations and dismantled as a people. The southern kingdom of Judah would cease to exist as an independent nation in mere decades. Poverty, injustice, immorality, and disunity abounded in Judah. This nation was not doing better without the Lord! We're believing a lie if we believe that we can ever find something better than we can find in God. Whatever we might lose in following Him cannot be compared to what we gain. God Himself is what our hearts long for the most.

← What would Jeremiah's listeners have thought about when God compared Himself to a fountain of living water? How were their idols like cracked water tanks?

↪ What is something God gives that you need more of in your life? What would it look like for you ask Him?

MEMORIZE

Every time you wash your hands today, say as much of Jeremiah 2:5 aloud as you can remember.

PRAY

Ask God's Holy Spirit to bring His rich, satisfying presence into your life. Ask Him for the things His Word says you need. Thank God that He is a good Father, ready to satisfy His children with good things.

day 4

PSALM 115:1-13

DWELL

Verses 4-8 contain one of the scariest warnings in Scripture: they tell us that worshipers take on the lifeless, powerless, purposeless characteristics of the idols they serve. The Bible tells us that whatever we and whatever we worship and trust will be what we are transformed into. Jesus lived and loved in the most profound way of any person in history. When we devote ourselves to His glory and plans, we take on His loving, merciful, peaceful characteristics over our lifetimes of serving Him.



Why do you think the psalmist didn't want to receive glory? Why was the psalmist so emphatic that God should be the only one glorified?



How does this psalm teach us to pray? List a few ideas.

MEMORIZE

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

PRAY

Ask God to use your life to glorify Him. Pray He reveals any potential idols in your life. Declare your trust in God and pray for His blessings in and through your life. Commit to live a life of worshipping Him alone.

day 5

PSALM 27:4-10

DWELL

King David made many mistakes in his life, but worshipping the false gods of other nations wasn't one of them. This psalm gives us some insight into how David lived a life of worshipping God alone, even though he was surrounded by the idols of other nations. Verses 4-6 say that David's top desire was to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and then shout and sing about Him. With his eyes and voice focused on the Lord, David wasn't looking to lesser things. His singing and shouting to God was a defense against a wandering heart. Like David, let's use our voice to declare God's beauty today.



What do we learn about worship from David's example?



How can you use your voice today to declare God's praise? How can this influence the way you talk or interact with others this week?

MEMORIZE

Write out each of the words of Jeremiah 2:5 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 God to show you new and exciting things about Himself in His Word. Declare to Him that He is good, mighty, wonderful, beautiful, and glorious.