

Digging Deeper

Read Jeremiah 1:1-6

4. When it comes to the power of your prayers, when do you feel like Jeremiah in 1:6?

Leader – Jeremiah felt inadequate and unprepared for what God had called him to do. He claimed he lacked the experience for the role. Please note we are NOT suggesting people assume that they have the **office (role)** of a prophet as Jeremiah, but they are suggesting that people consider the power of God's Words in the mouth of an intercessor, who with humility waits before God, meditating on the Word and seeking Him for specific Words for a specific prayer time.

Read Jeremiah 1: 7-8

5. How did this promise apply to Jeremiah's life? What do you remember about what happened to him? How did God fulfill it?

Leader – Jeremiah's ministry was not one of comfort, but God always protected him. God doesn't promise us a life of ease, but he is always watching over us.

6. How can this promise apply to your prayer life?

Leader - Unlike in Jeremiah's time, the Holy Spirit now lives *within* us. He speaks to us, if we listen. Therefore, we can also assume that we can rely on Him to guide our prayers, thus, praying back to God the things that are on His heart, as he places them on our heart. His perfect love casts out all fear.

Read Jeremiah 1:9-10

7. What was God appointing Jeremiah to uproot, destroy, and plant at that time? What is the scope of Jeremiah's authority?

8. What do you see in this section that would help embolden your prayers at this time?

Leader - An intercessory curriculum is found in Jeremiah chapter one: God places people into position to: root out; to pull down, destroy, throw down, and to build and to plant. (See Spotlight On the Passage section at the end)

We should never be surprised by evil. In fact, we should expect it, and prepare our greatest statement of Activism to be on our knees. God is promising that through ordinary people he will work to turn back evil, and then restore justice. God is asking Jeremiah to speak on His behalf about entire nations and kingdoms. That's power!

Read Jeremiah 1:11-18

9. What does God pronounce here that reflects a truth about how change will happen, through prayer?

10. Jeremiah 1:14-19 describes a partnership between the will of God and the actions of his servant. What does it demonstrate to us, about our role in God's work?

Leader – God is promising authority and power. Jeremiah won't stand up to evil defenseless, but that God will arm him with the words he needs to say. Words are powerful. God spoke the universe into existence. If God is going to give Jeremiah the words, why do we doubt that he won't impress upon our hearts the same thing? Do we also doubt that our prayers won't have the same power as Jeremiah's words?

11. Reread Jeremiah 1:6-8 and 19. When God asked Jeremiah to go into battle on his behalf, what was the nature of the battle? How does that apply to our life today?

12. How much confidence do we have in prayer's effectiveness and how has this passage shifted our perspective? What can you do this week to pray more fervently for the world?

Leader - Close out your time together by meditating on the two passages listed in the Putting It Into Practice section on the following pages (Matthew 18:18-20 and Ephesians 6:10-17)

Putting It Into Practice

1. Print a copy of the following page for each participant of your group.
2. Pray that God's spirit would open your hearts and minds to his living Word.
3. Slowly read aloud Matthew 18:18-20 and Ephesians 6:10-17. Pausing at the end of each sentence.
4. When you get to the end of the passage allow people to make notes on what God's spirit is impressing on them.
5. After three or four minutes, reread the passage and repeat the exercise, allowing God's spirit to further impress upon your hearts His Truth.
6. Move into a time of prayer, allowing these revelations to inform you on how to pray, as well as applying them towards the things you would normally pray about. (Hint: Repeating the same prayers as others have already prayed ought to be encouraged as the spirit may be nudging people towards something important.) NOTE: For this meeting, do not share prayer requests before you begin. Instead, allow people to pray in authority about what concerns them. This will allow for an opportunity for them to practice them, and also place the potency of prayer back in their hands.
7. At the end, debrief the experience. How is this different or similar to how you normally pray? What did you learn from this passage that changed how you prayed

Biblical Meditation is

sitting at Jesus' feet | hearing God through His Word | receiving His Word by faith
responding, being a doer of the Word | praying out what you received

Biblical Mediation results in

building faith | revelation | heart preparation | healing | strength | relationship
| discipleship

Meditation can be practiced in this way:

- Use your Bible, read through the passage carefully.
- Take a silent time meditating on the passage.
- Go back and reread the passage, be alert, pondering the Word of God.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to direct you to focus on a portion of the Word.
- What is God saying to me that I can pray about?
- How do I apply this to myself? Ask- What does this teach me about the character of God? (God is pure, lovely, commendable...) What does this teach me about His will for my life? (He desires that I be pure, lovely, commendable...) His will for his Kingdom work on earth (as it is in heaven).
- What is my response to God?

TRY IT OUT

Matthew 18:18-20 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Ephesians 6:10-17 New International Version (NIV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Spotlight on the Passages

Context: Jeremiah 1:9

“Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: ‘Behold, I have put My Words in Your mouth...’”

Basic Principle: This is a place of delegated authority in prayer.

v10 “See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms,

(as an intercessor who speaks My Words in prayer)

to root out (is to confess sin individually and/or corporately for a nation asking for mercy, restoration, (Ezra 9:6, Nehemiah 9:3, Daniel 9:4-11)

to pull down, to destroy, to throw down, God’s Words as spiritual weapons destroy the works of the enemy. These three actions are similar to 2 Corinthians 10:4, pulling down strongholds, casting down every thing that withstands (stands against) the knowledge of God.

to build... is to lay the foundations, **to frame** using the Word in the spiritual realm through prayer. (to use God’s word to **frame** in the heavenlies, (Isaiah 51:16)

and to plant. This is to use God’s Word as seed to plant the heavenly realms, (Isa. 51:16)

To plant is to seed with the Word, to use the Word as the basis for prayer.

Matthew 13:23 says the Word produces some a 100 fold, some 60 (fold), some 30 (fold). There is an innumerable return from the seed/Word.

Seeding and framing are just two different expressions of praying the Word.

Frame means to thoroughly set in place with prayer before the answer is seen. Just as a framer (carpenter) frames a house, so we frame in prayer using the specific Words God gives. An example of framing is to use Ephesians chapter 2, going phrase by phrase, establishing each part in prayer to see spiritual growth in the life of a new believer.

Hebrews 11:3

“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God. (Word here is rhema, that specific spoken Word for a specific situation. Eph. 6:17b)

so that things which are seen were not made of things that are visible.” Words, prayers are not visible, but they produce visible results.

Basics: The intercessor, representing the Church, is set over nations, kingdoms to represent God, to speak His Word and exercise rule with Him as directed in the place of prayer.

For our purposes, kingdoms are areas of influence where the world system has infiltrated and removed influences of God, and established their own influence. These areas can be called kingdoms, influenced by principalities they have unique behavior, vocabulary, dress, a moral code, and their own ‘kings’, leaders. They are worlds within worlds, corrupted areas of influence that can be seen in media, judicial system, sports, politics, etc.

Response: Jeremiah 1:6

“Oh, Lord GOD! I cannot speak, for I am a youth.”

Do not disqualify yourself. It is not about you, but about God. God spoke through Samuel when he was a child. (1 Samuel 3:18) It is about obedience.

Response:

v7 “Go to all I send you and whatever I command you shall speak.”

To an intercessor, this means pray where God directs in prayer, for America, Israel, the Supreme Court, etc. and pray out the words God gives you in meditation with prayer. (Go can simply means

direct your prayers there.)

v8 “Do not be afraid...for I am with you to deliver you.”

To pray with delegated authority demands humility and obedience, clean hands and a pure heart.
(Psalm 24:4)

Basic Principle: God will confirm His Word.

v11 God asks Jeremiah, “What do you see?’ and he said, ‘I see a branch of an almond tree.’” v12

The Lord says: “You have seen well....”

You will see [confirmation](#) for the prayers through the various sharings. In a prayer group, the sharing time is when you see the Holy Spirit moving, adding piece by piece to clarify the prayer target and to emphasize certain points for prayer.

Application: Meditate and pray through these Scriptures in Jeremiah. Receive, respond, pray.