

What are you Fighting for?!

"Will things always run smoothly if you are doing what God asks you to do?"

Jeremiah 1:18-19 *"Stand at attention while I prepare you for your work. I'm making you as impregnable as a castle, Immovable as a steel post, solid as a concrete block wall. You're a one-man defense system against this culture, Against Judah's kings and princes, against the priests and local leaders. **They'll fight you**, but they won't even scratch you. I'll back you up every inch of the way."* God's Decree.

Story of Jeremiah - write down a few things that he went through that stand out to you.

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God told Jeremiah from the beginning that his life was going to be rough.

Have you ever felt like you were doing what God wanted you to do, but yet you still faced opposition? (Ex: Noah and the ark (Gen.5:32-10:1), Joseph being put in jail when he was innocent (Gen. 39), Stephen being stoned to death for his faith (Acts 7:59-60), Paul being beaten and put in jail (Acts 16:19-34), and Jeremiah (entire Book of the bible))

Jeremiah wasn't afraid to spill out his feelings to God. **What keeps us from being totally honest with God? (Ps. 139)**

Even though Jeremiah was mad at God and having a pity party, he says in verse 9 that he couldn't quit preaching. It burned deep within him.

Jeremiah 20:11-13 - **Jeremiah came to an important realization-God was with him (even when he was mad at God!).**

Jeremiah 29:10-14

Jeremiah wrote this letter to those in exile in Babylon. **There is hope. After 70 years in Babylon**, God promises to bring his people home because He had plans for good and not disaster, to give them a **future and a hope.**

Small Groups Questions:

1. What costs might be involved in speaking and living God's truth around your friends/family?
2. What are you passionate about? How does that equate to the sharing of the gospel with others?
3. If knowing, believing, and obeying God's Word are the only ways to have the right perspective in all circumstances, what are barriers that keep us from spending time learning it?
4. "Has anyone accused you falsely when you were actually doing something right? Explain how the situation was handled, and what was the outcome.
5. God called Jeremiah to live with difficult circumstances. God told him not to get married, he was beaten, he was arrested, and he preached for years in opposition. What is your breaking point...The point at which you say God this is too much?
6. What difficulties has God called you to live with, and how have you been reassured of His presence in this process?