

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Fall Festival**—Come help at the Fall Festival! Oct. 31 from 6:30–8:30pm. Run a game or help out with setup and clean up.
- ◆ **Camping Retreat**—Friday and Saturday, Nov. 11-12.

BIBLE STUDY Q'S

“Your God is Irrelevant! Would You Please Pray for Me?”

Jeremiah 36:20-24; 37:1-3

Look at the title of the lesson, what do you notice about it?

Read **Jeremiah 36:20-24**, what did King Zedekiah do to the scroll that Jeremiah wrote and had Baruch read?

That was like a word from God and the King just disrespected God and the messenger. Imagine that if someone did that to part of the Bible or to some sermon notes while a pastor was preaching.

Read **verse 24** again, what did it say about King Zedekiah and these men?

What does tearing clothes have to do with this passage?

On a scale from 1- 10, how sorrowful and repentant do you feel our nation is toward God? Don't answer out loud, but how sorrowful are you over the sinful things of the world?

Read **Jeremiah 37:1-3**, did Zedekiah listen to God through Jeremiah's words?

We don't have a prophet, but how does God speak to us?

How are you doing in each of those areas in allowing God to speak to you?

Recall the activity before Bible study, how did the person do better in each of the rounds. How does that activity relate to our relationship with God?

Do you find it odd that the King paid attention to Jeremiah, but asked Jeremiah to pray for him?

What does that say about the King?

How is your prayer life? The truth will set you free, be honest. What can we do to make it better?

What burdens you most? Do you take time to pray for that?

How will you change your prayer life and relationship with God this week?

THE BIG PICTURE

October 20 - October 26, 2016

Read: Jeremiah 43—52

Understanding What You Are Reading

You will finish reading through Jeremiah this week. There are 9 chapters this week and some are extremely short and others are longer. Most of these chapters represent God's judgement on the nations around Judah.

In **Jeremiah 43** some of those left behind in Judah decide to go to Egypt against God's command. They force Jeremiah to go with them and God tells them they will die by the sword as He promised. **Jeremiah 44** tells of God's wrath against Judah for their worship of “**the Queen of Heaven.**”

Jeremiah 45 is your shortest chapter this week and is a brief encouraging letter to Baruch who helped Jeremiah telling him, God will help you escape with your life from the disaster.

Jeremiah 46—51 is a collection of oracles against the nations surrounding Judah Egypt (**46:2-28**), Philistia (**47:1-7**), Moab (**48:1-47**), Ammon (**49:1-6**), Edom (**49:7-22**), Damascus (**49:23-27**), Kedar and Hazor (**49:28-33**), Elam (**49:34-39**), and finally Babylon (**50:1—51:64**). You will learn some of the names of the gods of these nations as you read each section. For example Chemosh is a Moabite god and Molek is a god of Ammon. Jeremiah uses the illustration of sheep and a shepherd in his oracle with Babylon.

In case you missed it, **Jeremiah 52** is a more detailed description of the city of Jerusalem than **Jeremiah 39** was. The emphasis on the destruction is felt as the story is repeated for the reader. The siege on Jerusalem lasted from the 9th year of Zedekiah's reign to the 11th year of his reign. The number of people that Nebuchadnezzar carried back to Babylon was several thousand and one was King Jehoiachin who was freed 37 years later when a new Babylon king came to power. The book closes saying that he ate at the kings table everyday after that.

THE BIG PICTURE is to see that God promised to deal with the nations around Israel after the 70 years is over. God is God is faithful to Israel and will be to us as well.

Journal Ideas: (Some suggestions) Write a one sentence summary of each chapter. Write about a time when you didn't listen to a warning from someone, what happened? Name some things that people give their attention to over God. What was your favorite passage in Jeremiah?

Pray: (Some suggestions) Review and revise your weekly prayer list in your journals. Pray for a friend who needs to come to Christ. Ask God to help you be wise and listen to other people's advice. Pray for the nation as they prepare to vote for our new leaders.