

Small Group Guide

Jeremiah Series: Week 4 | Jeremiah 11-20

September 13, 2026

Big Idea

God proves that faithful ministry is sustained not by visible success but by the power of His Word.

How to Use This Guide

Read through the key takeaways before your group meets. Use the discussion questions to move from understanding the sermon to honest personal reflection. Close with the practical applications as a group commitment for the week ahead.

Key Takeaways

****1. Covenant-breaking is never small.****

God takes the disobedience of His people with terrifying seriousness. His commands are not suggestions, and His warnings are not rhetorical. When His people persist in rebellion, they are violating a holy bond that God graciously established.

****2. Faithful ministry may include betrayal, confusion, loneliness, and visible humiliation.****

Jeremiah's opposition did not come only from strangers or institutions. It came from familiar places, his own hometown, his own community. Faithfulness is often hardest when betrayal wears a familiar face.

****3. False prophets are often most dangerous when they sound soothing.****

False prophecy does not usually arrive wearing a name tag that says "false." It sounds compassionate, balanced, and reassuring. It removes urgency, minimizes the threat, and promises peace on terms God has not given.

****4. The real problem beneath every compromise is the deceitful heart.****

The heart is not merely occasionally dishonest. It is crooked, evasive, and incurably bent. This is why reformation without regeneration fails, and why surface fixes do not last.

****5. God's Word can sustain a servant even when the servant feels close to collapse.****

Jeremiah did not merely analyze God's Word; he consumed it. It became his inner life. The faithful servant is not sustained by speaking the Word publicly alone but by feeding on it personally.

Discussion Questions

Opening

These questions are meant to help your group ease into the conversation. There are no wrong answers here.

1. Before this sermon series, what did you assume faithful, biblical ministry would typically look like in terms of reception and results? Where did those assumptions come from?

2. Have you ever been surprised by opposition that came from a familiar or expected source rather than from an obvious outsider? Without sharing details that are too personal, what did that feel like?

Going Deeper

These questions engage the core content of the sermon more directly.

3. The sermon describes Judah's judgment as covenant consequence, not God becoming moody or unpredictable. How does understanding God's covenant faithfulness change the way you think about both His warnings and His promises?

4. God's response to Jeremiah's complaint in chapter 12 was essentially: the road ahead is harder, not easier. The sermon says, "Sometimes we want answers, but God gives stamina. Sometimes we want clarity, but God gives steel." How have you experienced this in your own walk with God? How did you respond to it at the time?

5. The sermon identifies pride as a root sin of Judah, saying "pride is what makes repentance feel unreasonable" and "pride is what convinces religious people that they are exceptions to Scripture." Where do you see this dynamic operating in the broader church today? Where might it be operating in your own life?

6. The image of the false prophet in chapters 14 and 15 is someone who tells people what they want to hear, removes urgency, and minimizes threat. What are some specific ways this kind of message shows up in Christian culture today? How do we train ourselves to recognize it?

7. Jeremiah 17 describes the heart as deceitful above all things, yet also says the Lord searches the heart and tests the mind. The sermon calls this both frightening and freeing. Which of those two reactions do you tend toward more naturally, and why?

8. The sermon describes the movement from malleable clay in chapter 18 to the shattered flask in chapter 19 as a picture of what happens when repeated warnings go unheeded. What does this teach us about the urgency of responding to God while there is still time?

9. Jeremiah 20 ends with Jeremiah cursing the day of his birth. The sermon says this moment is important because "genuine, obedient faith is more than platitudes and pithy slogans." How does seeing a biblical hero in this kind of raw despair affect your own honesty before God in seasons of suffering?

Connecting to Christ

10. The sermon draws a direct line from Jeremiah to Jesus, noting that Jesus not only bore the reproach of truth but bore the judgment due to covenant breakers. How does seeing Jeremiah's suffering as a foreshadowing of Christ's change the way you think about your own suffering in obedience?

Practical Applications

These are not suggestions for next week. They are invitations to begin today.

****Feed on the Word, not just from it.****

Jeremiah 15:16 describes consuming God's words so that they become a joy and the delight of the heart. This week, choose one passage from Jeremiah 11-20 and spend time with it not as a study exercise but as personal nourishment. Read it slowly, sit with it, and ask God to make it part of your inner life.

****Audit your sources of spiritual input.****

The sermon warns that false prophecy sounds compassionate and reassuring. Take an honest inventory of the voices you regularly listen to, podcasts, teachers, books, social media accounts. Ask whether those voices remove urgency from God's Word or apply it faithfully.

****Bring your honest complaints to God.****

Jeremiah did not pretend his pain away. He spoke honestly to God and left vengeance and outcomes with God. If there is a burden, injustice, or confusion you have been managing privately rather than bringing to the Lord honestly, use this week to do what Jeremiah did. Speak it plainly. Entrust it fully.

****Examine where pride is resisting correction.****

The sermon says pride makes correction feel insulting. Ask yourself: Is there an area of my life where I have been treating God's Word as a suggestion rather than a command? Is there a correction I have been resisting because receiving it would feel humiliating? Name it before God this week.

****Encourage someone whose obedience is costing them.****

The sermon closes with this word: "If obedience is costing you, you are not outside the will of God." Think of one person in your life whose faithfulness has brought them loneliness, opposition, or visible loss. Reach out to them this week with a specific word of encouragement rooted in what you heard in this sermon.

Closing Thought for Your Group

The call from Jeremiah 11-20 is not a call to success as the world counts success. It is a call to endure, to keep eating the Word, to keep entrusting your cause to the Lord, and to let the fire of God's truth burn hotter in your life than the fear of man. That is the kind of faithfulness these chapters commend, and it is the kind that Christ himself modeled perfectly on our behalf.

Close your time together in prayer. Ask God to produce in your group the deep-rooted, drought-resistant faith described in Jeremiah 17, lives that remain fruitful not because the climate is favorable, but because the roots go deep.