Goals:

☐ Key truths about God’s story in these books;
☐ That Jesus Christ is revealed in Jeremiah and Lamentations;
☐ The basic principle that God can use anyone no matter their age, position or abilities to deliver His message of judgment for sinners and restoration for the repentant;
☐ How to apply the truths revealed in Jeremiah and Lamentations to your own life.

KEY VERSES

Jeremiah 15:10 (NIV)
10 Alas, my mother, that you gave me birth, a man with whom the whole land strives and contends! I have neither lent nor borrowed, yet everyone curses me.

Jeremiah 23:5 (NIV)
5 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

Lamentations 3:22–24 (NIV)
22 Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
24 I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.”

Dr. Derrick E. Reaves
Senior Pastor/Teacher
1. The young man, Jeremiah, son of priest Hilkiah, became God's instrument to give His Word of rebuke and judgment to Judah.

Turn to Jeremiah 1 and list the things this chapter reveals about Jeremiah.

A. The prophet’s background (1:1-3)

☐ He was one of the _____________________________________________

☐ His father was ________________________________________________

☐ His hometown was ________________________________________________________

i) Jeremiah was born a ____________________________________________________
   • God’s call of Jeremiah came in _______________________________________________.
   • Continued as God’s spokesman ______________________________________________

B. The prophet’s call (1:4-10)

   i. God revealed that His selection of Jeremiah as a prophet had occurred before he had even been ________________________________________________________.

   ii. He was appointed to be a prophet to the ______________________________.

   iii. Jeremiah responded to God’s appointment with a measure of self-doubt.

     - He first objected that he did not know how to _______________________.
     - He also objected that he was only a ________________________________________.

   iv. God gave three answers to Jeremiah’s objections.

     - He stressed the _______________________ under which Jeremiah was to act.
     - God stressed that He would ________________________ the future prophet.
     - God showed Jeremiah the ______________________________ of his message.

C. The prophet’s confirming visions (1:11-16)

1. The blossoming almond branch (1:11-12)

2. The boiling pot (1:13-16)

   - The pot was tilting away from the north indicating that its contents were about to be spilled out toward the south.
   - 1:14-16. The tilting pot represented disaster that will be poured out on those who live in Judah.

D. The prophet’s challenge (1:17-19)

   - God gave him the needed strength to stand against the people of Judah.
2. The book of Jeremiah is not chronological. He prophesied about…
    Judah: Captivity and restoration;
    Particular cities: Jerusalem, Babylon and Damascus;
    Gentile nations: Egypt, Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Edom, Elam and Babylon;
    The Messiah.

God gave Jeremiah everyday objects and experiences as symbols in his prophecies along with His interpretation so that Jeremiah could warn and exhort God’s people.

Look up the following passages, discover what the object or experience is that God used, and briefly state the interpretation of that for Israel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Object/Experience</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremiah 1:11-12</td>
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<td>18:1-6</td>
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</table>
Three great events in Jeremiah's life:

- The Battle of Megiddo in which King Josiah was killed;
- The Battle of Carchemish in which Egypt was defeated by Babylon and the first deportation of the Jews happened;
- The capture of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in which the temple and the city were destroyed (2 Chron. 35-36; Jeremiah 1; Jeremiah 16; Jeremiah 52).

Using the passages above explore how Jeremiah communicated God's Word and how the king and people responded to Jeremiah.
4. During Jehoiakim's 11-year reign much evil was done and Jeremiah suffered.

Read Jeremiah 23:9-40; Jeremiah 26:1-7; 2 Kings 23:35:

☐ What were some of Israel's sins during this period?

☐ How did God declare He would deal with their sin?
5. One of the strongest prophecies of Jeremiah was delivered in the Temple.
   Skim Jeremiah 36-38- Look for the following:
   ☑️ Why was Jeremiah persecuted so viciously?
   ☑️ What was his response to his persecutors and to God?

6. During the reign of Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, Jeremiah delivered God's word about the impending exile and the final restoration of Israel.

In your assigned group read the assigned passage(s) then summarize the prophecies in two sentences. Send a representative from your group to write the summaries on the poster paper on the wall.

  Group One: Jeremiah 23; Jeremiah 31

  Group Two: Jeremiah 20:4

  Group Three: Jeremiah 25-26

  Group Four: Jeremiah 23:6; Jeremiah 30:4-11; Jeremiah 33:14-26

  Group Five: Jeremiah 24

  Group Six: Jeremiah 23:1-40; Jeremiah 32:37-41
7. The book of Lamentations is composed of five beautiful poems in which Jeremiah mourns for God's people and sees God's grace ultimately shine through to save His people.

In your same assigned group find one passage in your assigned chapter in the book of Lamentations that gives an example of Jeremiah's grief and one passage that offers hope in that chapter.

Group One: Lamentations 1

Group Two: Lamentations 2

Group Three: Lamentations 3

Group Four: Lamentations 4

Group Five: Lamentations 5

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-7

How does God help us transform our pain into pearls?

Which verses in Lamentations are the most comforting?

What can we do to comfort others in their sorrow with God's comfort?
**JEREMIAH: BOLD PROPHET TO THE KINGS OF JUDAH**

In your assigned group look for:

- A bold prophecy.
- A time of sorrow or persecution in Jeremiah's life.

Group One: Jeremiah 1-10  
Group Two: Jeremiah 11-20  
Group Three: Jeremiah 21-30  
Group Four: Jeremiah 31-40  
Group Five: Jeremiah 41-52

Which groups were most often condemned by God through Jeremiah?

How did Jeremiah withstand the attacks against him?

**Revisit Jeremiah's Call and Commission**

The Call: Jeremiah 1:2,4-5,7-19  
Reluctance: Jeremiah 1:6

Pair up with someone and complete the following sentences with your partner:

One way I see God calling me is ________________________________.

One reluctance I have in accepting His call is ________________________________.

One way that God relieved Jeremiah's fear was ________________________________.

The way I need God to help me deal with my fears is ________________________________.
**Jesus Christ Revealed as the Righteous Branch**

With a partner review the drawings below of the various prophecies about Jesus.

The seven symbols illustrated here represent seven attributes related to the coming Messiah found in Jeremiah.

1. Try to guess what the symbols stand for in relationship to the Messiah.
2. Then look up each passage and match it with the symbol.
3. Finally, share with your partner which symbol is most meaningful to you and why.

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Next Steps I Need to Take

At the Potter's House

In Jeremiah 18:1-6, we see a powerful image that God gave to Israel which we can apply to our own lives. The following pots are in various stages of formation that describe how your relationship with God is doing and how He is working in your life right now.

Write your name on the pot that best describes you at this time in your life. Then share with your partner how you labeled your pot and why you see yourself there right now.

Prayer

Write a prayer in response to Lamentations 3:22-26:
Before our next study read:

Thursday: The Prophet's Call (Ezekiel 2:1-3:9)
Friday: The Prophet—A Watchman (Ezekiel 3:10-27)
Saturday: Israel Shall Be Saved (Ezekiel 11:14-21; Ezekiel 28:25-26)
Sunday: Israel's Sins (Ezekiel 22:3-31)
Monday: Israel's Future (Ezekiel 34:1-31)
Tuesday: Israel's Restoration (Ezekiel 36:1-38)
Wednesday: Vision of the Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

Notes: