



Look Back

- Group check in...does your personal schedule change during summer? If so, how?
- Brainstorm some ways, as a group, that you can do an outreach or summer “event” (BBQ, pool party, ice cream social, etc.) together.
- During the short, three series study in Ruth, what were your takeaways that you’ve put into practice in your life?

Look Up

The book of Jeremiah starts off with these words: “The words of Jeremiah...” and follows with “...to whom the word of the LORD came...”. Wow. Oh to have our words and the words of God tied together like that. Jeremiah was a prophet, sent by God, to confront the nation of Judah about her idolatry. Judah had already seen its “sister nation” Israel choose idolatry and be led away into captivity by Assyria. In the years prior to Jeremiah’s forty year stint as a prophet, Judah was led by the king Manasseh deep into idol worship, paganism and all that comes along with it. With the threat of God’s judgement, Jeremiah endured persecution, beatings, near death encounters, rejection by friends and family....all to bring the “word of the LORD” to them.

In our reading today, we pick up the beginning conversation between Jeremiah and God. God begins to talk about a people - His people - who continue to run from him. They have broken their promise. They have forgotten who they are.

Read Jeremiah 1:11-19.

- What do you learn about God?
- What do you learn about people (including yourself)?
- What do you find difficult or challenging?

Look Forward

- Often times, just like the people of Judah, we need course correction; we need to reevaluate where we are in relationship with God. Share a time in your life when you had to reevaluate and make some course corrections. What ways did you see God working in this situation? What was the end result?
- One of the accusations God brings against his own people is that they “worship the work of their own hands.” Where in your life, right now, do you find yourself drifting into worshipping the work of your own hands?
- If there are course corrections that might need to be made, discuss how the group can help one another follow through with these corrections.
- Is there anyone in your life that might be far from God and need to hear about his goodness and love? Who? And...what plan can you put into place to share that with them this week?

(NEXT WEEK - we will be discussing Jeremiah 7-9 if you want to read ahead this week)