



Look Back

- Group Check in...how was the Fourth of July. Have someone say a prayer for our country and it's leaders.
- Last week we discussed "Shattered Plans" and how we can learn to rest (Sabbath) in God rather than let our calendars and plans control us and our identity. Did anyone implement any of the suggestions from last week? If yes....then how did it go (thoughts, feelings, etc.)? If no...why?
- Did anyone share Jesus or have a significant conversation in that direction this past week?
- Any new thoughts in the group about inviting people to join?

Look Up

In Jeremiah 19, God tells Jeremiah to break potter's flask - an 'earthen vessel' - in front of the people in order to demonstrate the coming judgment of God upon the nation. It's interesting that in chapter 18, God uses the symbol of a potter and clay as how he forms them into what He wants. A lump of clay can be formed. But what happens when that clay hardens and becomes a finished product that the potter is not satisfied with? This is what God tells Jeremiah to say (and demonstrate) to the people. So he obeys! He does it. And...is beaten and put in stocks for obeying God!

Wow! You mean that when we obey God, it can actually lead to suffering or hardship? Obedience isn't always easy or fun...but it's a big part of our allegiance to God and his Kingdom. We conform to what God says about us and about life and we obey what he asks us to do. Let's see how Jeremiah reacted after obeying and reaping the "reward" of that obedience.

Read Jeremiah 20:1-18

- What do you learn about God?
- What do you learn about people and yourself?
- What do you find difficult or challenging?

Look Forward

- When in the past have you obeyed what God was leading you toward and it actually caused you trouble, problems or even harm?
- What do you sense God is leading you toward, or teaching you, right now? If the answer is "I don't know" or "nothing", then there could be a variety of reasons for that....why?
- Does anyone in the group think God is leading us toward something as a group? If so, what is that?
- Are there any steps we need to take this week - as a group or individually - toward God's leading?

Spend some time praying about/for these things. Be willing to revisit them. Keep praying too!