



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Sermon Series:** Dark Prophet Part 1

**Sermon Title:** The Call

**Speaker/ Date:** Armin Sommer/ January 20, 2019

### Jeremiah 1:1–17

Jeremiah wrote this about 2,645 years ago (ca 627 BC). He wrote a series of posts that remain relevant 2 ½ millennia after he wrote it.

**Big Challenge:** Post a message with your life that outlives you.

#### I. The Effect of a Life Purpose

God's purpose for Jeremiah was with him before his conception. The 13<sup>th</sup> year of Josiah was 627 BC. Jeremiah's ministry lasted 42 years as he prophesied through the reign of several kings, right up to the end of the Southern Kingdom of the Israelites.

Jeremiah's ministry began during the reign of Josiah. Josiah inherited the throne of Judah at the age of 8. At 26 he experienced a spiritual awakening. (2 Kings 22). He decided to clean up the Temple of the Lord, which had fallen into disrepair, and was converted into a flophouse for prostitutes. The Holy of Holies was used as a junk room.

One day as they were going through the temple and they found an obscure book- the Bible- and no one knew what it was. 2 Kings 22:11–17

In response, Josiah enacts sweeping reforms. He cleans up the Temple, restores God's Word, and reinstitutes observance of the Passover. Sadly, good king Josiah dies young and the Kingdom he led is destroyed by the nation of Babylon. Jeremiah stayed true to in dark times and wrote a post with his life that has long outlived him.

#### II. How To Discover Purpose (a purpose that outlives you)

##### Jeremiah 1:4–5

Several Steps:

**Step 1. Time with God**

Jeremiah doesn't tell us how God conferred his call- but He clearly spent time alone with God. God will direct you in purposeful ways if you ask Him and consistently spend time with Him and in His Word.

**Step 2. Walk with God**

**Psalm 119:105**

God's has a purpose for you. His purpose does not shift with your circumstances. The location might change but not the purpose. Simply read His word- pray and ask- and follow him one step at a time.

**Step 3. Lose the Excuses**

**Jeremiah 1:6-7**

Don't plead ignorance or inadequacy. God's calling includes equipping.

Most of the people God calls initially begin with the desire to opt out as Moses did. *"Pardon your servant, Lord... "I am slow of speech and tongue."*

But God's calling is the key qualification. And "There is an enormous gap between what we think we can do and what God calls us to do."

**Step 4. Ask for a Word**

**Jeremiah 1:9**

Ask the Lord, and you may find that He gives you a word for others to hear that will call them to a higher purpose.

**Step 5. Trust God to Protect You**

**2 Timothy 4:7** *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

**2 Timothy 4:18** *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.*

God will protect you to complete the purpose He gives to you.

**Time with God... Walk with God... Lose the Excuses... Word from God...**

**Trust God**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What is God calling you to do right now but you are hesitating because you feel inadequate?**
- **Can you summarize your life's purpose in a sentence or two? Take some time to discuss what some lives purposes could be.**
- **Think of a person who has heavily influenced your life in a positive way. What was their life's purpose?**
- **Do you spend dedicated time alone with God? Discuss what obstacles you have overcome or need to overcome in order to do that. What tips or wisdom would you offer to someone who is struggling with spending time with God?**
- **Has God ever given you a word for another person to hear? How did they receive it?**
- **Has anyone ever approached you and told you that God has given them a word for you? How did you receive it? What is a good way to discern whether or not the word is from God?**