

## The With-God Journey

**Date:** August 6th

**Title:** The Burning in Jeremiah's Bones

**Text:** Jeremiah 1; 20:9

**Description:** The pressure to succeed is all around us—especially here in New England. If you hope to find life at its best, then you must be the best, right? But what if God has called us to something else, to something more than success? This week we'll discover an Old Testament prophet whose life before others did not look "successful" whatsoever. Yet his life had a profound impact because he was faithful. This Sunday at Crossway, we invite you to get to know the prophet, Jeremiah, and learn how his faithful life can help you reimagine how to best live yours.

1. This week we learned this important principle: Faithful > Successful. Do you agree? Why or why not? How does the world around define success? What does it mean to be faithful?

2. In his book on Jeremiah, *Run with the Horses: The Quest for Life at Its Best*, Eugene Peterson writes: "The puzzle is why so many people live so badly. Not so wickedly, but so inanely. Not so cruelly, but so stupidly. There is little to admire and less to imitate in the people who are prominent in our culture. We have celebrities but not saints." How is it dangerous for our faith if we over-follow celebrities and under-follow saints?

3. Read Jeremiah 1. What verses, phrases or ideas stand out to you most and why?

4. In Jeremiah 1:6, he claims to be too bad of a speaker and too young to be used by God. How does God respond? In what ways do you resist God's calling on your life? How would you fill in these blanks: I don't know how to \_\_\_\_\_. I am too \_\_\_\_\_.

5. God calls Jeremiah to preach an unpopular message to the people. What is that message? How do they respond?

6. Below is a description of how Jeremiah was treated for preaching faithfully: After several years of preaching, Jeremiah's family turned against him and even plotted to kill him ([Jeremiah 1:8](#), 11:21-23, 12:6). Over the years, he was whipped and put in the stocks ([Jeremiah 20:1-3](#)), attacked by a mob ([Jeremiah 26:1-9](#)), threatened by the king ([Jeremiah 36:26](#)), and ridiculed ([Jeremiah 28](#)). Some of Zedekiah's princes had Jeremiah arrested, beaten, accused of treason, and thrown in jail ([Jeremiah 37:1-15](#)), from whence he was then thrown in a deep empty well ([Jeremiah 38:1-6](#)). He lived through the siege of Jerusalem along with the rest and was there as the people were taken away as captives. Despite so much adversity, Jeremiah remains faithful. How is he able to do so? Read Jeremiah 20:8-9.

7. Based on Jeremiah 20:9, he might we remain faithful by cultivating a burning in our bones as well?

8. Read Jeremiah 29:1-14. In what ways might we live faithfully in a day and age that in many ways resembles the experience of exile?

9. Close by praying for one another, our church, our community and world.