



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Jeremiah; Lamentations Sermon Series

Supports Session 1: Prepares

Sermon Title: "Calling Out the Called"

Passage: Jeremiah 1:1-19

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### Connection to Session 1

God chose Jeremiah before his birth to be a prophet to the nations. Like He did with Jeremiah, God calls believers today to serve Him.

### Introduction/Opening

In Scripture, we read about God calling people to serve him in ministry. In some instances, the call involved a dramatic experience, like those of Isaiah and Paul. For others, though, God called them in a quieter, less dramatic way. Peter had this type of call—merely, “follow Me” (Matt. 4:19). In Jeremiah 1:1-19, God called Jeremiah to speak to the people of Judah on His behalf. He would be a “prophet to the nations” (Jer. 1:5).

When God called me to ministry, He called me in an environment where many had an intense and dramatic call to serve the Lord. The Lord called me, however, in a subtle and quiet way, so I struggled with doubt about my call. It took a few years of open doors, invitations to preach, affirmation from mature Christians and churches, and witnessing fruit from my ministry to feel secure in my call.

Responding with a “Yes” to God when He calls can make us fearful. Jeremiah had reasons to fear. The Lord made it clear that Jeremiah would face skepticism, violence, and rejection through his ministry. Nevertheless, God called Jeremiah, and Jeremiah relied upon his call to dispel fear. A study of Jeremiah’s call can alleviate any fears we have about God’s call on our own lives.

### Outline

#### 1. The Lord Knows Us (Jer. 1:1-7).

- a. The Lord knew Jeremiah’s times, age, role, and abilities. He knows ours as well.
- b. The Lord knew Jeremiah’s difficult times (vv. 1-3). The Lord called Jeremiah during the reign of King Josiah in a time before Josiah’s revival (2 Kings 22-23). Jeremiah ministered during the last 40 years of Judah’s existence.
- c. The Lord knew Jeremiah’s role, and He knew His own (vv. 4-5). God chose Jeremiah before his birth and set him apart to be a prophet. Jeremiah played no role in deciding the purpose and plan of His life; this was God’s business.
- d. The Lord knew Jeremiah’s abilities (vv. 6-7).

#### 2. The Lord Equips Us (Jer. 1:8-16).

- a. The Lord equipped Jeremiah in ways that met his needs and neutralized his weaknesses. He equipped Jeremiah with His presence (vv. 8, 19), His touch or anointing (vv. 9-10), and His guidance (vv. 11-14).
- b. We will face difficulties, too. Like Jeremiah, we can depend on the Lord's presence with us when we follow Him.
- c. The Lord will equip anyone who has a teachable spirit. For all those who say "Yes" to Him, God is prepared to supply what is needed for the task.

### **3. The Lord Warns Us (Jer. 1:17-19).**

- a. The Lord ended Jeremiah's call experience with two warnings. First, if Jeremiah showed signs of intimidation, God would cause him to "cower" (v. 17) before the people. Second, Jeremiah would face opposition from the very people to whom he would speak. "They will fight against you" (v. 19). Jeremiah's message of repentance would not be welcomed. In the ears of compromising Judah, his words were fighting words.
- b. However, we can be assured there is much joy in saying "Yes" to the Lord's call. He never oversells a call to ministry. We can fully place our trust in Him, no matter what opposition we face.

## **Conclusion**

It is always a good time to say "Yes" to God's call. Ignoring or running from what God calls us to do can lead to consequences. This doesn't mean we won't face obstacles or endure challenges. But God can be trusted; He is faithful. Through Christ, we have been given a "Yes" to all His promises (2 Cor. 1:19-20).

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