

04 IN GOD'S TIMING

KEY TEXT: JEREMIAH 12:1-13

CENTRAL truth

It can be easy to get frustrated by the sin, brokenness, and evil in our world and wonder when God is going to bring justice. Jeremiah lived in a time when some pretty evil folks were thriving in Judah, and he chose to bring his frustrations and questions directly to God. God promised to deal with the issues Jeremiah was seeing, but He also told Jeremiah that the prophet's endurance for service and trust in the Lord needed to really grow. Jeremiah learned **we must trust God to bring justice in His timing and His way.**

key question

What should we do with our questions and frustrations about Christianity, the Bible, the culture around us, or the evil we see in the world?

Throughout the Bible, we can find examples of faithful followers of God raising honest questions and concerns to Him. Asking questions is good if we're trying to understand God's ways and seek to honor and obey Him. When Jeremiah was honest with the Lord, he received some big revelations about himself and about God's justice. We can learn from the prophet's example by bringing up our questions, concerns, and frustrations with the Lord and with trusted, mature believers.

keep in mind

- This week we will be talking a lot about *lament*, which may be a new concept for students. Lament means taking our difficult questions, feelings, pains, and difficulties to the Lord. That's where we'll find the comfort, clarity, and encouragement we need. Clarify that lament is not the same as mere complaining or whining. Lament seeks to know God's ways better and walk with Him closer than before.
- Today's session deals with the need for endurance to sustainably serve God in a broken world. Students may feel overwhelmed or discouraged by the challenges and difficulties they see around them. What good can they do among so much need? Help them to see that God not only has a lot of good to do through them, but He also has an inexhaustible supply of strength and endurance to equip them for the task.

application

What can we learn about prayer and lament from Jeremiah?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Life can be discouraging, frustrating, scary, and confusing; only God can give us the comfort, clarity, and encouragement we need. Denying or stuffing our emotions does us no good. Students will be greatly helped if they can remember to go straight to God in prayer with every challenging experience they encounter.

FOR THE LEADER: As a leader, you have the opportunity to be vulnerable about things that have bothered you in the past and how you've been honest with God. How has He helped you or comforted you?

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