

# 11 GOD'S COUNSEL

KEY TEXT: JEREMIAH 42:7-22

## CENTRAL truth

Jeremiah's warnings about Babylon were largely ignored, so every single word he prophesied came to pass. Following the destruction, a few Jews were left in the region of Judah, and they thought it would be a good idea to ask Jeremiah if he could get guidance from God for them. God spoke through Jeremiah, and once again, the people rejected the guidance. They had not yet learned that **obeying God's guidance leads to our good**.

## key question

**What's the right attitude to have when seeking direction from God?**

It can be tempting to think we know better than God, but we don't. His guidance to those few remaining Jews was intended to lead them to peace, protection, and provision, but they couldn't benefit from this guidance because they had already decided what they were going to do. When we seek God's guidance, we need to do so with humility and gratitude, and a willingness to trust and obey Him. No matter how strange it may seem or how much it requires of us, God's guidance always produces our highest possible good.

## keep in mind

- Students might have questions about the harshness of God's warnings in Jeremiah 42. These warnings were intended to help His people see the cost of coming out from underneath His hand of protection. Without God's guidance, the people would be on their own to face the dangers of life. God doesn't warn us to intimidate us. He's trying to give us a clear understanding of the costs of doing things our own way.
- Some students may have significant worries and anxieties about the dangers and uncertainties of life. Acknowledge the sometimes frightening realities of life. Encourage them that God wants to protect and provide for them. He is a good and loving heavenly Father who takes good care of His children. If there is something specific weighing on them, encourage them to speak to you privately or to another trusted adult like a pastor or parent.

## application

**How can we be sure that we have the right attitude when we go to God for counsel? How can we encourage one another in this?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** God's Word, prayer, the Holy Spirit, and wise counselors are great ways to discover God's will for our lives. Encourage students to ask questions, raise concerns, and be honest about their feelings with God and with trusted, mature believers. There's endless wise counsel available to those who seek it and heed it.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Encourage your students to ask questions. Make yourself available to pray with them anytime and help them, along with other wise counselors, to discern God's will for their lives.

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