



Jeremiah 2-5 Study Guide

Big Idea: Look back! Come back!

A. Look Back (Jeremiah 2:1-3:11)

1. It Began with true Love. (2:1-3) Notice that God calls Israel his "bride". They used to be in love. Share examples of what it's like when someone is "in love" with God.
2. You Stopped Seeking God (2:6-8)- What does it look like to stop seeking God?
3. Broken Cisterns (2:12-13)- What are the things in our culture that absorb our hearts and become ultimate things for us?
4. Whoredom (2:20-24)- Give examples of how we can be driven by our passions.
5. Sustained Disregard for God (2:30-3:11)- Share examples of how God warns people and they remain hard-hearted.

B. Come Back (Jeremiah 3:12-4:4)

1. Read Jeremiah 3:12-14a. Discuss what it means to "acknowledge your guilt". Describe the implications of what is stated in the passage.

Faithlessness:

Rebellion:

Scattered favors:

Disobedience:

2. Read Jeremiah 4:1-4. Discuss what it means to do more than "acknowledge" but to take action.

Remove detestable things:

Break up fallow ground:

Circumcise yourself to the LORD:

C. Be Warned (Jeremiah 4:5-5:31)

The clock is about to strike midnight. The passage ends with the question: "*What will you do when the end comes?*"

Application

Identify your idols

1. Where do your thoughts naturally go?
2. Where does your money flow?
3. What has become your '*functional savior*'?
4. What triggers the deepest emotions in you (anger, fear, worry)?

Replace your idols

1. What do you need to remove from your life right now?
2. What do you need to add to your life?

Jeremiah 2-5

Jeremiah graphic

Theme: Courage in Chaos.

1. Moral decline.
2. Courage to speak the truth.
3. Future hope.

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A. Look Back (2:1-3:11)

1. It Began as True Love! (2:1-5)

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, ²“Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD, “I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.

2:5b- ...went after worthlessness, and became worthless?

Revelation 2:4-5a

...you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.

2. You Stopped Seeking God (2:6-8)

⁶ They did not say, ‘Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt?’

⁸The priests did not say, ‘Where is the Lord?’ Those who handle the law did not know me; the shepherds transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.

2 Tim. 4:3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.

3. Broken Cisterns (2:9-19)

⁹“Therefore I still contend with you, ...¹² Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, ¹³ for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

John 7:37 - “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.”

Ezekiel 14:3 - “These men have set up their idols within their hearts.”

1 Corinthians 10:12- “Let him who stands, take heed, lest he fall.”

1 Corinthians 10:14 “...flee from idolatry.”

Keller, Counterfeit Gods

“The human heart is an idol factory.”

“We take good things and make them ultimate things.”

Culture

Beauty

Brains

Family

Career

Money

Control

Peer approval

Achievement

Romance

Security

Comfort

Politics

Social issue

Your morality

Success in Ministry

4. Whoredom (2:20-29)

²⁰ ... Yes, on every high hill and under every green tree you bowed down like a whore.
... gone after the Baals...

V. 23b... a restless young camel running here and there,

V. 24a... a wild donkey used to the wilderness, in her heat sniffing the wind! Who can restrain her lust? ...

Jer. 5:8- They were well-fed, lustly stallions, each neighing for his neighbor's wife.

Revelation 17:1-14- The Great Prostitute

²... with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, ...⁵And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations.”

James 4:4- You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

5. Sustained Disregard for God (2:30-3:11)

V. 30-32 - In vain have I struck your children; ... my people have forgotten me days without number.

...Where have you not been ravished? ...You have polluted the land with your vile whoredom. ³Therefore the showers have been withheld, and the spring rain has not come; yet you have the forehead of a whore; you refuse to be ashamed...⁵...Behold, you have spoken, ...

v.10 "you did not return with your whole heart, but in pretense."

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B. Come Back! (3:12-4:4)

"Return, faithless Israel, declares the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the LORD; I will not be angry forever. ¹³Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD.¹⁴ Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your master; Return!!

1. "Acknowledge your guilt" (3:12-25)

- Faithlessness
- Rebellion
- Scattered favors
- Disobedience

2. Take Action (4:1-4)

^{4:1}"If you return, O Israel, declares the LORD, to me you should return. If you remove your detestable things from my presence, and do not waver, ...³For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: "Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns. ⁴Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds."

- Remove detestable things
- Break up fallow ground
- Circumcise yourself to the LORD

Study: The Effects of reading your Bible

If you read your Bible 4x a week or more:

- Loneliness goes down 30%
- The use of pornography goes down by 59%
- Bitterness in your relationships goes down 43%
- Anger goes down 32%
- Getting drunk goes down 57%
- Sharing the gospel goes up 228%
- Discipling others goes up 231%

C. Be Warned (4:5-5:31)

1. Imminency of Destruction (4:5-18)

⁵Blow the trumpet...

2. Anguish of God (v. 19-31)

¹⁹My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain! Oh the walls of my heart! My heart is beating wildly...

3. The Refusal to Repent (5:1-4)

"Though they say, 'As the LORD lives', yet they swear falsely...You struck them down, ...but they refused to take correction...Faces harder than rock...they refused to repent."

C. Be Warned (4:5-5:31)

4. The Result (v. 5-31)

Therefore a lion from the forest shall strike them down; a wolf from the desert shall devastate them. A leopard is watching their cities; everyone who goes out of them shall be torn in pieces,...

Conclusion

Jeremiah 5:31

"...but what will you do when the end comes?"

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