

**BEFORE THE SESSION:**

- Pray for each of your group members by name
- Look over the questions on the right and choose the ones that are most appropriate for your small group. If you're really feeling motivated, you might even think of a few on your own.
- Think through how you might prompt your group a little if they have difficulty getting started in discussion.
- Take a look at the accountability question below. Lead members to gather one on one or in same sex clusters to discuss it over coffee this week.

**THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA**

God equips you for the plans He has for you.

**ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION**

Is there something in your life that causes you to feel unworthy of

**TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:**

Read Jeremiah 18-40; Psalms 74, 79.

**AS YOU READ...**

...Think about what God's plan is for your life.

**CONNECT****(10 min.)**

Choose one or both of the following questions to begin your time together as a group.

1. **Where were you born? At home? Hospital? Taxi? What is the most unbelievable birth story you've heard?**
2. **What did you want to be when you grew up? Did your parents have different plans for you?**

**EXPLORE****(40 min.)**

Say something like, "Today we are going to discuss that God had a plan for you and has equipped you to fulfill a specific purpose."

3. **If you were in worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?**

**(Leader:** Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

4. **Read Jeremiah 1:4-5. Jeremiah was born into a specific plan. Who is someone about whom it might be said, "He was born to do that"? Hint: athlete, actor, artist**
5. **How far back does God's relationship with Jeremiah go? Read verse 5 again and John 20:21. Based on what you read in these verses, do you think that God prepares and "calls" everyone or just a select few? Why or why not?**
6. **Read Jeremiah 1:6. What was Jeremiah's response to God's call? What are some excuses you have heard or you have used to justify not being obedient to God's call?**
7. **Read Jeremiah 1:7-9. What was God's response to Jeremiah's doubt and fear? What did God do to further confirm his call to Jeremiah? Do you see any areas in your life where God is equipping you now so that He can use you in the future?**
8. **Read Jeremiah 29:11. Do you trust that God has a wonderful plan for your life or do you feel somewhat like Jeremiah— doubtful and fearful?**

**TRANSFORM****(10 min.)**

Wrap up your time by recalling a few things from your meeting that stood out to you. Then, ask the following question and pray together.

9. **How did what we talked about today change the way you view God's plan for you? What is God calling you to do to make his name "famous" across the street? Across the world?**

# This Week's Study Notes:

## What's God's "Call"?

God's call is His prompting on your life to do what you are uniquely shaped to do for the purpose of glorifying Him and pointing others to a Christ-centered life.

## Scripture Notes

### Jeremiah 1:2

Josiah became king of Judah at age eight. When he matured, he became unhappy at how far his country had drifted from obedience to the Law (2 Kings 22:11), so he started reforms to renew the nation's spiritual life. Josiah was the last godly king of Judah. After his rule, Judah fell into the terrible spiritual state that Jeremiah cried out against.

### Jeremiah 1:3

After Josiah was killed by Pharaoh Neco (2 Kings 23:29), his successor lasted only three months. Then Jehoiakim was named king by the pharaoh. Jehoiakim, unlike his father Josiah, was evil.

### Jeremiah 1:5

God asserted His right to call Jeremiah into service as His prophet. God knows us in advance because he is not limited by time. Although we make choices in our lives, God has preordained at least some things about us.

### Jeremiah 1:6

Jeremiah tried the same excuse as Moses had when God called him to service (Ex. 4:10). It did not work for Moses, and it did not work for Jeremiah. In both cases, God had prepared the men for the roles they were to play (v. 5), and God would provide remedies for their shortcomings.

### Jeremiah 1:7

Youthfulness was no excuse. God knew Jeremiah's shortcomings and called him anyway. Jeremiah was only responsible to go where God sent him and to say what God told him. The prophet did not need to be old, powerful, and wise. He was called to do God's bidding—not his own.

### Jeremiah 1:8

God understood that Jeremiah's objections were rooted in fear. The antidote to fear is the promise of God's presence and deliverance. These promises are made to all believers, no matter their professions or talents.

### Jeremiah 1:9

When Moses bemoaned his lack of speaking skill, God appointed Aaron his spokesman (Ex. 4:10-16). For Jeremiah, God simply reached down and placed His words in the prophet's mouth. Jeremiah was a conduit between God and the covenant people.

## Leader Tips

### AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
  1. Whom does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
  2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
  3. Whom do I need to tell about these verses?

### FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: [Bible.org](http://Bible.org)
- Bible Commentary: [DesiringGod.org](http://DesiringGod.org)
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: [Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm](http://Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm)

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