

Instructions

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and pick 3-5 questions to discuss, which pertain to your group's unique needs and style. For the video related questions, look up the video in RightNow Media. You can do this on a phone, tablet, computer, or SmartTV device. You can easily find the video by clicking on the "Revolution Church" channel within the app. If you or a group member needs access to RightNow Media, please email info@revolutionky.org.

Series Synopsis

Resilience. The human capacity to get up again and again after falling down; the ability to recover quickly from many difficulties. A new year typically sparks excitement for new opportunities, plans, dreams, and goals. And yet, at the beginning of this new year we still find ourselves in the middle of a worldwide health crisis and an amended way of life. Hope is on the horizon, but we know any semblance of normal, or even a "new normal," is still months away. What we need now is resilience. What we need now is the firm foundation of scripture and our Christian tradition that show us that our faith is resilient because of the sure hope we have in Jesus Christ. Join us this January as we review practices for cultivating hope in the midst of incredible suffering through meaning, creativity, and community.

Message Synopsis

Jeremiah was a priest in Jerusalem and a prophet before the Babylonian conquest. His call from God was twofold; to be a prophet to Israel and to the nations to deliver a message of God's coming judgement, but also a message of hope for their future. Jeremiah warned of coming judgement due to Israel's unfaithfulness, of worshipping other gods and allowing corrupt leaders to forget about the widows, orphans, and immigrants. He lived through that conquest and the destruction of the temple, but he also prophesied while they were in exile and brought a word of hope to the Israelites. It was Jeremiah who called them to build homes, to plant gardens, and to start families, because God still had a plan to give them a good future. The story of Jeremiah reminds us that even in a time of disillusionment and difficulty, we can still plant and build now, knowing that God holds our future.

Key Scriptures

Jeremiah 29:1-7

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. What stuck out to you about Jeremiah's story? Could you relate to any part of it?
2. What could "planting a garden" like the Israelites did in exile look like for us today? What could that be symbolic of for us?
3. What does the story of Jeremiah and his time in Israel reveal to us about the nature of God?

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: “How to Read Jeremiah” (7 min)

(located in the “Renovation Group Training Sessions” channel)

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/210695>

1. Take a moment to discuss this video freely. What stuck out to you? What bothered you? What questions did this raise for you? Even consider where and why your mind wandered as you watched, as it might reveal something of your heart or something of significance in the message.
2. Where do you see resilience in Jeremiah’s story?
3. How do you relate to Jeremiah? Have you ever had to persist in standing up for your beliefs, even when it seemed like no one was listening? What was it like? How did you find the strength and courage to stand firm?
4. Describe a time in your life when you felt you were held captive, waiting for deliverance. What gave you hope during this time?
5. What gives you hope today?
6. Consider a deeper study of Jeremiah using the questions listed on the RightNow Media site, underneath this video.

Family-Related Questions:

1. Jeremiah is a great way to teach your children that they have a voice. Jeremiah was a youth and didn’t think anyone would listen to him because of his age. But God had a purpose for him. Do your kids have a voice in your family? Are they encouraged to contribute spiritually? How can you help your kids find their voice this week (in your family, with their friends, in service and outreach)?
2. Jeremiah is also a great book to teach your children how to stand up for what is right. Share with your group about a time when you witnessed your children standing up for the right thing. How did you feel? How did they feel? Has it helped them be more confident in the end, or has it led them to shy away from conflict? Explain. How can you better encourage your children to stand up for good in the future?
3. Where do your children need hope today? Where are they stuck? Where are they discouraged? Discuss some practical ways to instill hope for your kids, even in uncertain times (times like now, where they might feel held captive in the midst of a global pandemic) and with an uncertain future.