



**Jeremiah: Serving God In A Time Of Crisis - Make No Excuses
(Jeremiah 1:4-14, 17-19)**

1. Read Jeremiah 1. What do you know about Jeremiah's life? Is there anything that stands out or made you think from his account of his calling to be a prophet?
2. Do you think only some people like Jeremiah have a calling or are we all called to serve God in some way? Have you ever felt God's call on your life or are you open to his call? What stops you from being open? What do you think God has "appointed" you to do, or to be, at this present time of your life?
3. What does God emphasise to Jeremiah before he says anything else in v5? How do you understand God's sovereignty? How does knowing God is sovereign change or effect the way you think and behave?
4. What does it mean to you that God knew you before you were born, has a plan for your life and longs to communicate with you?
5. Can you identify with Jeremiah's response to God? What excuses are we prone to make when God calls us to do something for him however big or small?
6. How does God respond to Jeremiah's reservations about being His prophet? V6, 7-10. What encouragement and comfort do you discover here for yourself?
7. God gave Jeremiah two visions to strengthen him for the task. How would the first vision v11&12 and the second vision v13-16 do this? How can you apply this to your own experience?
8. In verses 17-19 God tells Jeremiah that it is time to speak His word, but also that his message will not be well received. However, what does God promise to do for Jeremiah? How have you experienced this strengthening in your own life?
9. What is the most precious promise God makes to Jeremiah as he responds to God's call? V8 and v19? Think about God's promise to Moses Ex 3:12, Joshua in Joshua 1:9 and Jesus promise to his disciples Matthew 28:18-20. Share how you have known God's presence through this past year, in times when you have responded to God's call and what difference it has made.
10. Spend some time praying that we will be open to God's call and know his presence with us as we choose to respond.