

BIBLE SMASH!

Study: Jeremiah 1:4-8 and Matthew 18:1-6

Memorize: Jeremiah 1:7-8

Notes:

Analyze: The background information...

Topic: Youth as Prophets

Jeremiah 1:4-8

These verses are the commission of Jeremiah to do the work of God. (Or God's calling of Jeremiah). What is important is not so much who was being called, but that God came to that person.

Jeremiah, as far as we know, was the only human person that was set apart for God's work long before he was born (Verse 5). Even people such as Moses and Samuel were set apart at birth (Exodus 2, 1 Samuel 1), and Isaiah and John the Baptist were set apart while in the womb (Isaiah 48:1, Luke 1:15). God formed Jeremiah (made him), and knew Jeremiah (called him), and declared him Holy (set him apart for service to god).

Jeremiah was called to be a prophet to ALL nations.

Prophet: (Webster's Dictionary) n. [F. proph\`8ate, L. propheta, fr. Gr. , literally, one who speaks for another, especially one who speaks for a god and interprets his will to man, fr. to say beforehand; for, before + to say or speak.

1. One who prophesies, or foretells events; a predictor; a foreteller.
2. One inspired or instructed by God to speak in his name, or announce future events, as Moses, Elijah, etc.
3. An interpreter; a spokesman. [R.] Ex. VII. 1.

4. (Zoöl.) A mantis. School of the prophets (Anc. Jewish Hist.), a school or college in which young men were educated and trained for public teachers or members of the prophetic order. These students were called sons of the prophets.

In God's world, a prophet is often someone that warns of what could happen if people do not change their behavior and turn back to God. They are not fortune-tellers. They are not predicting what will definitely happen. They are just warning of what could happen. Jonah preached to Ninevah of its destruction. When the people of Ninevah repented to God their city was not destroyed. Because they turned back to God, the prophecy did not come true. In its simplest terms, a prophet could say "bad things" will happen (you will be destroyed and go to Hell) if you do not turn to God (and have a loving relationship with Him then live forever in Heaven).

Jeremiah replies to God that he is not capable to do God's request because he does not have the knowledge he needs because he is not old enough. It is thought that Jeremiah was between the ages of 12-16. He was almost certainly under the age of 20 because manhood began at the age of 20 in his culture.

God is kind in his reply (no harsh words) but He is stern with Jeremiah, when He says, "Do not say 'I am only a boy'." God then promises to be with Jeremiah. Age is of no concern to God. God will take care of what we cannot. God

will ask us to do what we cannot do alone. We must have faith in God and trust that He will help us as we complete the tasks that He has asked us to do (or has set before us). When God asks us to do something it may come in a form that seems like a request but it should be treated in a fashion that it is a command. Why would you ever say “no” to the God of the universe? *Jeremiah did not say “no” to God he just kind of said, “Are you sure you got the right person? I don’t really know anything. How can I be of any use to you?”

Matthew 18:1-6

When the disciples ask Jesus, “who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?”, He replies that the children are. Children know that a gift is something you get for free, all you have to do is accept it. If we are friends, and I give you a present, all you have to do to receive that present is hold out your hands and take it from me. (They would not try to buy or earn God’s gift of salvation)

Too often, as adults, we feel we need to earn what we receive or we feel that there is no such thing as a free gift. There must be a catch or some strings attached. Even to the point where many people today that call themselves Christians honestly believe that if they live a “good” life and don’t bother anyone else they will get into the Kingdom of Heaven. They think that because they believe there is a God that is the same as believing in God. That’s definitely not true. The Bible tells us that even the demons believe there is a God. (James 2:19)

Is God saying we need to literally become and act like a child. No, but we must have the heart of a child. What is it that makes a child so wonderful?

- They are innocent.
- They come without prejudices.
- They trust others easily.
- They usually see the good in people.
- They are young and can be taught.

Being teachable is very good.
Older people have to be re-taught...
Which is much harder.

- They also rely on their parents for everything. Do we rely on our heavenly father for everything or do we try and take care of stuff ourself?

Share: Is there anything that you have learned that you would like to share with others or anything that have learned from listening to someone else share? Write it here...

Honor: Just a thought...

**People are changed, not by begging them,
forcing them, or out of fear, but by example.**

- John Maxwell

From "Got a Minute" by John Maxwell. Page 11

What are you doing to change the world?

Leader's Guide: Questions for discussion...

Jeremiah 1: 4-8

- 1) How do you think Jeremiah felt when God told him that He knew him long before he was ever born? (or even conceived in his mother's womb)
- 2) In your own words, what do you think a prophet is? (Do not read the Webster's definition yet.)
- 3) Why do you think Jeremiah felt inadequate to be a prophet for God? How would you feel if God came to you tonight and told you he wanted you to be a prophet?
- 4) Why do you think God chose a child to do His work and not an adult – like when He chose Abraham or Moses?
- 5) (Read the definition of what a prophet is – focus on what is underline) After hearing what a prophet is, do you think there are any prophets alive today? If so, who?
- 6) If you share God's Word with someone, are you acting like a prophet? (yes) A prophet does not need to speak to thousands of people. He may just speak to one person.

Matthew 18:1-6

- 1) Jesus loved the children. Why?
- 2) Why would Jesus want us to become like children?
- 3) What qualities do they have that would be an advantage over qualities you might find in an adult?
- 4) Do you have any of these "adult" qualities what you think you need to change or get rid of?
- 5) Why is it easier for a child to accept Christ as their Savior? (Statistically, the older you get the less likely you will become a Christian. Most new Christians are under the age of 12 and if you haven't accepted Christ by the time you are 21 you probably won't ever)

General Questions

- 1) Why do you think God chose Jeremiah?
- 2) Do you think God might have something planned for you right now in your life?
- 3) If God is talking to you now, and you don't respond now, do you think it will be just as easy to say "yes" to what God is asking later?
- 4) Will the opportunities you have now to do God's work still exist later? (sometimes, but not always)
- 5) What are some reasons, or excuses, we use to say "no" to God? (I don't feel like it, what will the other kids think, I'm not sure God is actually talking to me, I don't think it is something I can do)
- 6) If we say "yes" to God what does that mean for us? What is God's part in all this?

Credit

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