



Discussion Guide
Race Against the Horses – Part 1
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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"What you are is God's gift to you; what you become is your gift to God."
[Hans Urs von Balthasar]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

What is one word that you would use to describe the direction of your life right now? Why did you choose that word?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

"The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands."
[Psalm 138:8]

BIG IDEA

God's word and work set the bar for our potential and purpose. Are we living life to the fullest?

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

[Jeremiah 12:5](#) and [Jeremiah 1:1-19](#)

1. What do v. 4-5 reveal about God's knowledge and purpose for Jeremiah before his birth? How does this encourage you?
2. How does Jeremiah initially respond to God's calling (v. 6)? What might this indicate about the human tendency when faced with a divine task?
3. How does the perspective that God's plans are "more, better, and harder" than we might expect challenge your views of success in the Christian life?
4. Jeremiah is assured of God's presence despite opposition. What specific challenge can this promise encourage you to face right now?
5. Jeremiah's calling was part of God's bigger plan. How does recognizing God's larger purposes impact the way we as Christians view our roles in the church and the world?
6. Jeremiah initially felt inadequate for his calling. What area(s) of your life makes you feel most unprepared? How can you trust God to equip you?
7. In v. 8, God reassured Jeremiah to "do not be afraid". What fear(s) are holding you back from fully embracing God's plans for your life? How can you trust God to help you overcome those?
8. Jeremiah was called to be a "gift" to others. What gifts or talents has God entrusted to you? How are you using them to serve others? How might He be inviting you to begin?

9. How could fully embracing that God “chose, set you apart, and appointed” you before birth influence your view of identity and purpose?
10. What practical and meaningful steps can you take this week to align your thoughts, actions, or self-assessment with God’s perspective of you and your calling?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Jeremiah 1:8 reminds of a powerful truth from the LORD: “*Do not be afraid of anyone, for I will be with you to rescue you. This is the Lord’s declaration.*” This should give us the confidence to race against the horses! Based on what we’ve read and discussed today, what is a step of obedience you can take this week in this area? Here are a few additional questions to consider ...

- How are you letting the fear within you win?
- What self-talk does not align with God’s words?
- Will you redefine success in terms of faithfulness to God?
- How can you embrace God’s assessment and direction for your life?

PRAYER FOCUS

Living Fully in God’s Potential and Purpose

- Let’s reflect on this truth: God’s Word reveals His incredible promises, and His work in us sets the bar for our potential and purpose. He calls us to a life of fullness—rooted in His love, guided by His Spirit, and shaped by His truth. But are we truly stepping into all He has for us?
- As we pray, let’s ask God to open our eyes to His purpose for our lives and empower us to live boldly for Him. Let’s invite Him to search our hearts, remove any barriers holding us back, and help us embrace the abundant life He desires for us! Amen.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Jeremiah 1 Commentary](#) & [Guide to Jeremiah](#)
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- [Known By God](#)
 - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.