



Discussion Guide
Race Against the Horses – Part 2
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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**“Beware of harking back to what you once were
when God wants you to be something you have never been.”**
[Oswald Chambers]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

Describe a time when you got lost and needed help to find where you were going.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

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

*“Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.
He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”*
[Psalm 1:2-3]

BIG IDEA

Religious observance without inner transformation is worthless and dangerous. The best life of “racing against the horses” starts WITHIN!

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

[Jeremiah 6:16 and Jeremiah 7:1-15](#)

1. In the sermon we heard, *“God does not steamroll our will.”* How does this conflict or align with your view of God?
2. What was the primary issue Jeremiah addressed in v. 1-4?
3. How do v. 9-10 reveal the hypocrisy of the people’s actions? Why is this significant?
4. How can valuing a religious appearance over inner transformation be a challenge for us today?
5. What does “new beginnings without follow through” reveal about true repentance?
6. How does the invitation in Jeremiah 6:16 (“ask about the ancient paths”) apply to us seeking to live faithfully today?
7. What area(s) in your life have you been relying on religious rituals or appearances instead of genuine faith and obedience?
8. In this passage, Jeremiah warns against trusting external symbols of faith. How can you cultivate a faith that remains strong even without visible signs of God’s presence?

9. What practical step(s) can you take towards your faith being marked by inner transformation?
10. How can we, as a small group, encourage one another to move beyond surface-level religiosity and pursue genuine transformation?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Galatians 4:19 declares this about our lives: *“My children, I am again suffering labor pains for you until Christ is formed in you.”* One of the implications is that we must reject superficial spirituality! Based on what we’ve discussed today, what is a step of obedience you can take this week? Here are a few additional questions to consider ...

- Are you willing to be deeply transformed?
- What limit or boundary do you need to push past?
- What false images of God and yourself do you need to replace with truth?

Jesus is creating a forever family that shares similar characteristics, attitudes, and ambitions! *How important is it to you to FULLY BE PART OF THIS FAMILY?*

PRAYER FOCUS

True Transformation Begins Within

- Let’s take a moment to reflect on this: religious observance without inner transformation is not only empty, but it’s dangerous! God doesn’t call us to outward actions alone ... He desires our hearts to be transformed by His Spirit. The “race against the horses”—the abundant and purposeful life we’re called to live—starts within, as God changes us from the inside out.
- As we pray, let’s ask God to examine our hearts, renew our minds, and transform us by His grace. Let’s surrender any tendency to focus on outward appearances and invite Him to do the deep, inward work that leads to true life and strength for the journey!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Guide to Jeremiah & Idolatry, Injustice, & the Coming Judgment](#)
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- [Paul's Curriculum For Christlikeness](#)
 - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.