



Discussion Guide
Race Against the Horses – Part 4
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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**"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible
than to be alive without breathing."**

[Martin Luther]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

We have recently made it through the longest days of darkness in our year. What are you looking forward to as we gain more daylight?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

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

*"Listen, Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Protect my life,
for I am faithful. You are my God; save your servant who trusts in you."*

[Psalm 86:1-2]

BIG IDEA

Our ability to live by the truth and God's revealed will, not our feelings or the world's opinions, comes from ruthless and radical honesty in prayer.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

[Jeremiah 20:1-10](#)

1. What opposition does Jeremiah face in v. 1-3? Why is this significant?
2. In the sermon we heard, *"For every invitation from God, there will be opposition."* How has that shown up in your life recently?
3. How does Jeremiah express his frustration with God in Jeremiah v. 7-9? What does this reveal about his internal struggle?

Have someone else read aloud Jeremiah 15:15-21.

4. In Jeremiah v. 15-18, Jeremiah describes his suffering and brings a complaint before God. How do you identify with Jeremiah in what he honestly shares?
5. According to v. 19-21, how does God respond to Jeremiah's lament? What does He require of him?
6. Jeremiah felt that God's word was "a fire burning in my heart" (20:9). How can we develop (and help one another develop) a similar passion for God's word?

7. Jeremiah was tempted to quit (20:10). As you reflect on your own faith journey, what caused you to be tempted to give up? What helped you to remain strong in the Lord?
8. Jeremiah was honest with God in his prayers. What prevents you from doing that? How can you cultivate a deeper, more honest prayer life?
9. In Jeremiah 15:19, God tells Jeremiah to “return” to Him with trust. What area(s) in your life do you need to return to trusting God fully? Let's be honest with one another!
10. Jeremiah was given a renewed mission after his lament. What practical steps can we take to strengthen and encourage one another in our God-given callings?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

With God through prayer, we do not and cannot remain the same. Jeremiah 15:19b says *“If you return, I will take you back; you will stand in My presence.”* The question remains: Will we accept His invitation? Based on what we've discussed today, what is a step of obedience you can take? Here are a few additional questions to consider ...

- How can you **return** to God in unreserved trust?
- How can you **re-establish** your priorities of being with God in prayer?
- How is God inviting you to **renewal** ... being revived to race against the horses?

PRAYER FOCUS

Radical Honesty In Prayer

- Living by God's truth and will—not our feelings or the world's opinions—requires our hearts to be anchored in Him. This kind of faithfulness starts with prayer that is honest and radically open before God. When we bring our fears, doubts, and struggles without pretense, He meets us with grace, aligns our hearts with truth, and strengthens us to walk in His ways.
- As we pray, let's ask God to help us be completely honest with Him—laying down our worries, temptations, and weaknesses. Let's invite Him to shape us by His truth so that we stand firm in His will, no matter what the world says.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Ch. 15 & Ch. 20 Commentary](#)
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- [Extend Your Prayer Time](#)
 - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.