



Discussion Guide
Race Against the Horses – Part 5
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

.....

“There is a difference between a fleshly stubbornness and a godly perseverance. The former insists on getting one’s will done in heaven, and the latter determines to get God’s will done on earth.”

[William Thrasher]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

Describe a time that you did not give up on something and the outcome was pleasantly surprising. How did that make you feel?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

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

*“Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you.
Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure.”*

[Proverbs 4:25-26]

BIG IDEA

We can learn from and emulate Jeremiah’s persistence, which leads to our God-ordained purpose!

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

Jeremiah 25:1-7

1. In the sermon we heard, *“Persistence in our God-appointed purpose.”* How have you seen that play out in your faith journey?
2. How long had Jeremiah been calling Israel to repentance? How did they respond?
3. How does Jeremiah’s persistence in proclaiming God’s message contrast with Israel’s refusal to change?
4. In the sermon, we heard that we should *“quickly recognize and say no to ‘less than’ living.”* How are you currently pursuing something that is “less than” what God has for you?
5. Jeremiah’s commitment was to God’s mission, not his personal success. How can we guard against measuring success by numbers, popularity, or ease rather than faithfulness?
6. Jeremiah remained faithful for 23 years, even when people ignored him. Where in your life is God inviting you to be more persistent and faithful?
7. In the sermon, there was an emphasis on “rising early” to spend time with God. How are you currently making it a daily priority to seek Him? How could you begin doing that more regularly? Let’s encourage and challenge one another!

8. The people of Israel ignored God's repeated warnings. How can you have a more receptive attitude to listening for and hearing His voice?
9. Perseverance means moving toward need rather than comfort. What difficult or uncomfortable step might God be calling you to take in this?
10. What practical step(s) can we take together to embody Jeremiah's persistence in serving God faithfully?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

One of the most vital ways we can remain persistent and live out God's purpose is to stay intimately connected to God! As we seek the Lord and get "filled" up on a daily basis, we will discover what Paul hopes for in Ephesians 3:19 ... *"May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God."* Here are a few additional questions to consider in taking your next step this week:

- Where in my life am I living stuck?
- How am I neglecting God's means of grace?
- What am I filling my mind with? Does "this" help me run my race?

PRAYER FOCUS

Persevering in Our God-Ordained Purpose

- Reflect on how Jeremiah's life was marked by faithfully following God's call despite opposition, discouragement, and suffering. Fulfilling our God-ordained purpose requires steadfast trust and perseverance. Remember, God strengthens those who remain faithful!
- As we pray, let's ask God for the perseverance to keep going, even when challenges arise. Let's seek His guidance to stay true to His calling on our lives, trusting that He is working through our faithfulness to accomplish His perfect will.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Ch. 25 Commentary](#) & [Seventy Years of Exile](#)
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- [4 Steps to Your Breakthrough](#)
 - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.