



Discussion Guide
Race Against the Horses – Part 6
LEADER GUIDE

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Hey leaders! In our current series, “[Race Against the Horses](#)”, we’re discovering how even when Jeremiah did not live up to his potential, God offered a generous and gracious invitation to live for more. We receive this same invitation ... to live with a bold, expectant, dependent faith in God to experience our best life!

We will begin a NEW series, “[Navigate](#)”, next week! In this series, we’ll explore key Scriptures illustrating that God’s way is not found in a crystal ball ... His way is found in wisdom! If we are open to the Spirit’s leading, we’ll learn to discern what is good, not just avoid what is bad. We hope you’ll join us for week one!

[Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!](#)

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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“Hope is a defiant reliance on God keeping His word.”

[Ann Voskamp]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!

- **[Passage Summary](#)**
 - God instructs Jeremiah—from prison—to buy a field that is already occupied by the invaders. This is an act of incredible, defiant hope. Through tangible action, God is showing that judgement does not have the final word. Disgust, discouragement, and despair should not define us, and God is not finished pouring out His grace and mercy.
- **[Ch. 32 Commentary](#) & [The Man Who Bought Property In a War Zone](#)**
 - Use the commentary and article for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before you gather.
- **[Hope Means Resting](#)**
 - This would be a good resource to share with your group after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another’s hearts and building joy together.

If you could create a “Hope Hotline” where one Bible character answers calls to encourage people, who would you choose and why?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!

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

*“I am certain that I will see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord ; be strong, and let your heart be courageous. Wait for the Lord.”*

[Psalm 27:13-14]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today’s reading and discussion.

Don’t let your heart be ruled by what you see; let it be ruled by what Jesus promises you. Rather than live in disgust, despair, and discouragement, act in hope!

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage multiple people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they’re for guidance!

Have a few people read aloud portions of Jeremiah 32:1-27.

1. In the sermon we heard, *“Biblical hope does not depend upon my understanding, power, or control.”* How have you failed to grasp biblical hope in the past and depended on your own understanding, power, or control? *This is a good opportunity to go FIRST!*
2. In v. 6-15, what does God command Jeremiah to do? Why do you think this action is significant? *God commands Jeremiah to buy a field in Anathoth, land already under Babylonian control. This act symbolizes hope—that despite judgment, God’s promises remain, and Israel will be restored.*
3. What does Jeremiah’s struggle with doubt after obeying God reveal about faith and obedience? *Answers will vary: faith often requires obedience before understanding and trusting God’s long-term plan.*
4. In v. 27, God responds to Jeremiah’s prayer. How does God’s rhetorical question, “Is anything too hard for me?” challenge our human tendency to doubt Him? *Answers will vary: God’s question reminds Jeremiah (and us) that His power is limitless. It challenges believers to trust not in circumstances but in God’s sovereignty.*
5. How does Jeremiah’s act of buying land demonstrate an active, defiant hope? *Jeremiah doesn’t just wish for restoration—he invests in it. His obedience shows faith in action, trusting that God’s promises are greater than present reality.*
6. At times, what is easier about living in discouragement, cynicism, or fear rather than living with hope? What dangers does this pose for us? *Answers will vary: discouragement feels easier because it requires no effort. Hope, on the other hand, demands trust, persistence, and a long-term perspective. Living without hope leads to spiritual stagnation.*
7. Jeremiah’s faithfulness didn’t yield immediate results. How does this challenge your desire for instant success and gratification in your faith?
8. Jeremiah’s purchase was a declaration that God was not finished with His people. What area of your life do you need to trust that God is not finished? What is God saying to you about this right now?
9. Jeremiah obeyed God despite uncertainty. What is one area of your life where you feel God calling you to obey without fully understanding the outcome?
10. How can we encourage one another to live in hope rather than fear or cynicism?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || **Leader Note** *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

Jeremiah's act wasn't just about a piece of land—it was about declaring God's future reality even when the present seemed hopeless. How can we live today with that same bold, defiant hope? We can start by remembering what Jeremiah 32:17 says: *"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."*

Here are a few additional questions to consider in buying your field this week:

- How can you LIVE NOW for **future grace**?
 - Examples → return good for evil; flee from sexual immorality; level up your generosity
- How can you INVEST IN someone's **kingdom future**?
 - Examples → share your story; invite to church; use spiritual gift to build up the body
- How can you DO SOMETHING that's **inexplicably bold**?
 - Examples → go on a missions trip; serve beyond convenience; leave comfort zone
- How can you KEEP your **eyes on Christ**?
 - Examples → rise early to be with God; pause and pray throughout the day

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

PRAYER FOCUS || **Leader Note** *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5-10 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. You can pray for one another as well as the prompts below!*

Living by Jesus' Promises

- In a world filled with brokenness, it's easy for our hearts to be ruled by what we see—disgust, despair, and discouragement. However, Jesus calls us to something greater: to live by His promises.. He assures us of His presence, His victory, and His unshakable hope.
- As we pray, let's ask God to anchor our hearts in His truth rather than in the circumstances around us. Let's surrender our fears and frustrations, choosing instead to act in hope, trust in His promises, and shine His light in a dark world.