

PROPHETS

Community Group Discussion Guide

May 29, 2016

New Covenant | Jeremiah 31:31-34

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY

1. Describe a time when you were given hope in a difficult situation. Briefly explain what made the situation difficult and how you were given hope.
2. The Bible understands hope to be a **confident assurance in God's promises, and in the God who stands behind those promises** (see Hebrews 11:1). What stands out to you in this definition of hope? Are there ways this differs from ways you have understood hope before? Explain.
3. In the time that Jeremiah wrote his book, Judah (the nation that Jeremiah is writing to) is facing a difficult situation. As a group, do your best to identify 3-4 ways that God's people are facing a difficult situation. To help you with this, consider what you know from reading Jeremiah (and other prophets you've read so far), what you may remember from 1-2 Kings, etc.
4. God's people are facing a difficult situation both externally (the threat of foreign superpowers) and internally (sin, disobedience, and rebellion against God). **Now read Jeremiah 31:31-34** and answer the following questions.

- Look closely at Jeremiah 31:33-34. What are the features of this "New Covenant"?
- Summarize or "bottom line" these features in your own words. What is God promising His people here?
- How would this New Covenant promise have offered hope?

5. The New Testament lets us know that Jesus fulfilled the Old Covenant, and that the New Covenant was inaugurated in His death and resurrection (see, for e.g., Matthew 5:17 and 2 Corinthians 3:7-11).

Look at the following New Testament passages and share how the New Covenant promises of Jeremiah 31:31-34 are now realized because of what Jesus has done. (If time is tight, choose 1-2 of these to work through as a group, and come back to the rest on your own.)

- What do we learn about the **internal transformation** that God brings about, from Ephesians 2:1-10?
 - What do we learn about **being part of God's family** from 1 Peter 2:9-10?
 - What do we learn about **access to God** from Hebrews 4:14-16?
 - What do we learn about **forgiveness of sins** from Romans 4:5-8?
6. Choose one of these features of the New Covenant that Jeremiah prophesied about, and that Jesus makes available. How do you need to "grab ahold" of this truth in a fresh way in your own life?
 7. Why is hope such an important characteristic for followers of Jesus to cultivate? How can what you've learned from Jeremiah 31:31-34 motivate your own hope-filled living and glad obedience this week?



This week's readings
(May 30-June 5)

Mon - Jeremiah 30-32
Tues - Jeremiah 33-36
Wed - Jeremiah 37-39
Sun - Jeremiah 51-52

Thurs - Jeremiah 40-44
Fri - Jeremiah 45-48
Sat - Jeremiah 49-50