

July 16, 2017



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

**Lesson Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Beware of giving up too soon. Our emotions are not reliable guides. John Piper

**COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:**

Jeremiah knew that God didn't call him to success but to faithfulness. He trusted the God who called him. Jeremiah's resilient compassion shows us the heart of the Father, who yearns for everyone to turn to Him.

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations*

(Jer 1:5 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 5, 2016)

**Series: God's Urgent Call**

**UNIT: Calling of Prophets**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Ezekiel**

**(Ezek 3:1-11)**

## Jeremiah Jer 1:4-10

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson reviews the call and empowerment even before birth of **Jeremiah**. The **study's aim** is to establish that a call from God comes with the power to carry it out. The **study's application** is to stress obeying God's call is rarely easy, but it will always be successful in accomplishing what God requires in the call.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

Unlike Isaiah, who readily volunteered for his prophetic ministry, Jeremiah was reluctant to sign on to the Lord's plan for him. When the Lord initially spoke to him, Jeremiah claimed he could not speak for the Lord because he was a mere "child" (Jer. 1:6). The word for "child" could be used for anyone from infancy to young adulthood, but "it is generally believed that Jeremiah was between twenty and twenty-five when his call came to him" (Jensen, Jeremiah and Lamentations, Moody). Although he was a priest, relatively speaking, he was a child as far as experience was concerned, for priestly service apparently began at age thirty (cf. Num. 4:3, 30). The Lord had already told Jeremiah that He had ordained him as a prophet to the nations even before his birth (Jer. 1:5). God knew exactly what He was doing, and Jeremiah could trust Him. Jeremiah's task was really quite simple. He was to go where the Lord sent him and speak what the Lord commanded him. He did not need to concern himself with eloquent words and persuasive speech. Jeremiah was to obey the Lord, and the Lord would take care of the rest. To argue with God is to call into question His wisdom as well as His power. Jeremiah was focused on his own inabilities, much as Moses was when the Lord spoke to him at the burning bush (Exod. 3-4). He saw what he was incapable of doing rather than recognize what God is like. God is all-powerful; He does not depend on the meager strength of His servants. God is all-knowing; He does not choose only those who have years of experience in human endeavors. God knows the future, and He knows us better than we do. Like Jeremiah, we might not be the most experienced, the most brilliant, or the most gifted of God's people, but that is not what God wants from us anyway. He wants us to simply go where He wants us to go and speak what He tells us to speak, and He has not left us in the dark as to what that involves. We do not have to come up with something new and different and appealing. He has given us the message; it is called the gospel. And He has given us the strength and power to proclaim it through the Holy Spirit. Jeremiah's message was quite different from the one God calls us to deliver. His message was largely one of judgment. He foresaw the Babylonian conquest of Judah and was to urge his people to surrender. After his initial reluctance, Jeremiah submitted to the Lord and never turned back. He understood what God called him to do, and he faithfully carried out his mission. He suffered greatly for his obedience to God in declaring God's message. "Jeremiah believed passionately that God had spoken to him. When his life was at stake, the only defense he offered was, 'The Lord sent me to prophesy' [Jer. 26:12]" (Blackwood, Jeremiah, Word). God has spoken to us and given us a great commission. Can we, even in the face of death, confidently say, "The Lord sent me to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ"?

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### God's Ordination (Jer 1:4-5)

*By God's Word (4)*

Ordained word to make known God's revelation (Rom 16:25-27)

Ordained word of redemption (Eph 1:7-8)

Ordained word to be spread through the Church (Eph 3:10)

Ordained word to reveal transgressions until Jesus came (Gal 3:19)

*By God's Sanctification (5)*

Sanctification that makes one blameless (1 Thess 5:23)

Sanctification through the blood of Jesus (Heb 9:13-14)

Sanctification that sets apart Jesus as Lord in our heart (1 Peter 3:15)

Sanctification that leads to presenting ourselves as a slave to God (Rom 6:19)

Sanctification that leads to salvation (2 Thess 2:13)

### God's Enablement (Jer 1:6-8)

*Enabled guidance (6-7)*

Guidance that is part of God's plan for our life (Jer 29:11)

Guidance into truth (John 16:13-15)

Guidance by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:18)

Guidance that represents we are a child of God (Rom 8:14)

*Enabled boldness (8)*

Boldness because of having the help of God (1 Thess 2:2)

Boldness because God will be with us (Dan 3:16-18)

Boldness because of faith in God (Luke 8:24-25)

Boldness because of the love of God (Rom 8:37-39)

Boldness because of dependence on God (2 Cor 1:9)

Boldness because of the competence of God (2 Cor 3:5)

### God's Endowment (Jer 1:9-10)

*Endowed message (9)*

A message that guides and protects (Ps 32:8)

A message that counsels (Ps 73:23-25)

A message that teaches what is best (Isa 48:17)

A message that is binding (Heb 2:2-3)

*Endowed mission (10)*

A mission to strengthen and encourage faith (1 Thess 3:2)

A mission to carry on the work of the Lord (1 Cor 16:10)

A mission given with power and authority (Luke 9:1-2)

A mission that is like lambs among wolves (Luke 10:3)