

Week 5: The word of power – Jeremiah 20:7-18

Pray for our mission partners and your time in the Word	
Context (Jeremiah 18-19)	
1. What do you remember from the sermon on Sunday? Read Jeremiah 18:1-12 2. What is the main lesson learnt from the house of the potter? Read Jeremiah 19:1-11 3. What is the lesson for Judah to learn from the potter's house?	Note: try not to spend too much time on this part of the study. If you need to read shorter parts here is an alternative option: <i>Read Jeremiah 18:1-6</i> <i>Read Jeremiah: 19:1, 10-11</i>
Notice	
Read Jeremiah 20:1-18 4. Re-read the passage on your own	Prompts for reading on own - Images/metaphors - Keywords or ideas - Questions you have
5. Share with a partner, what images had an impact on you? 6. Discuss all together, - What are you unsure about? - What do you think the passage is about?	Guided study <i>if needed</i> Break the passage into parts, and try summarising each part? Vs: 1-6 What is the response to Jeremiah's pottery message? - What is the accusation against Pashhur? Vs: 7-18 How does this contrast with when Jeremiah spoke to Pashhur? - How would you describe Jeremiah's feelings toward his ministry?

	Given Ch 1:9, that these are not Just Jeremiah's words but Gods, what does this reveal about God's character?
Reflect	
7. As a group, a. What are some life lessons? b. What do these chapters teach about God? c. Resolve what you think the main message	Guided study if needed How do humans often respond to truths we don't like? What does this teach about the difference between God and us? How does this passage describe God's experience of bringing Judgement?
Respond	
8. What kind of impact should it have? On a. What you believe b. What you want in life c. What you do this week	When we struggle with the thought of God's judgement, how does this help us? Vs: 13, How can this passage help us sing God's praise?
Pray in response to the passage, then in pairs	

MP: Judah is like a pot in God's hands which he can freely choose to reject, however God does not delight in the destruction of his people.

App: There are times when the Bible's message is hard to hear, but we must remember the character of the God who speaks it.

At the Potter's House

18 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²“Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message.” ³So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴But the pot he was shaping from the **clay was marred in his hands**; so the potter **formed it into another pot**, shaping it as seemed best to him.

⁵Then the word of the LORD came to me. ⁶He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.

⁷**If** at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, ⁸and **if** that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. ⁹And **if** at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, ¹⁰and **if** it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

¹¹“Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, ‘This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. **So turn from your evil ways**, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions. ¹²But they will reply, ‘It's no use. **We will continue with our own plans; we will all follow the stubbornness of our evil hearts.**’”

19 This is what the LORD says: “Go and **buy a clay jar from a potter**. Take along some of the elders of the people and of the priests ² and go out to the Valley of Ben Hinnom, near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate. There proclaim the words I tell you, ³ and say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, you kings of Judah and people of Jerusalem. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Listen! I am going to bring a disaster on this place that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle. ⁴ For they have forsaken me and made this a place of foreign gods; they have burned incense in it to gods that neither they nor their ancestors nor the kings of Judah ever knew, and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent. ⁵ They have built the high places of Baal to burn their children in the fire as offerings to Baal—something I did not command or mention, nor did it enter my mind. ⁶ So beware, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when people will no longer call this place Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.

⁷ “‘In this place I will ruin^[a] the plans of Judah and Jerusalem. I will make them fall by the sword before their enemies, at the hands of those who want to kill them, and I will give their carcasses as food to the birds and the wild animals. ⁸ I will devastate this city and make it an object of horror and scorn; all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff because of all its wounds. ⁹ I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and daughters, and they will eat one another’s flesh because their enemies will press the siege so hard against them to destroy them.’

¹⁰ “**Then break the jar while those who go with you are watching,** ¹¹ and say to them, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I will smash this nation and this city just as this potter’s jar is smashed and cannot be repaired. They will bury the dead in Topheth until there is no more room. ¹² This is what I will do to this place and to those who live here, declares the LORD. I will make this city like Topheth.

20 When the priest Pashhur son of Immer, the official in charge of the **temple** of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things, ² he had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin at the LORD's temple. ³ The next day, when Pashhur released him from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, "The LORD's name for you is not Pashhur, but Terror on Every Side. ⁴ For this is what the LORD says: 'I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends; with your own eyes you will see them fall by the sword of their enemies. I will give all Judah into the hands of the king of Babylon, who will carry them away to Babylon or put them to the sword. ⁵ I will deliver all the wealth of this city into the hands of their enemies—all its products, all its valuables and all the treasures of the kings of Judah. They will take it away as plunder and carry it off to Babylon. ⁶ And you, Pashhur, and all who live in your house will go into exile to Babylon. There you will die and be buried, you and all your friends to whom **you have prophesied lies.**'"

Jeremiah's Complaint

7

You deceived^[a] me, LORD, and I was deceived^[b];
you overpowered me and prevailed.
I am ridiculed all day long;
everyone mocks me.

8

Whenever I speak, I cry out
proclaiming violence and destruction.
So the word of the LORD has brought me
insult and reproach all day long.

9

But if I say, "I will not mention his word
or speak anymore in his name,"
his word is in my heart like a fire,
a fire shut up in my bones.
I am weary of holding it in;
indeed, I cannot.

10

I hear many whispering,
 “Terror on every side!
 Denounce him! Let’s denounce him!”
All my friends
 are waiting for me to slip, saying,
“Perhaps he will be deceived;
 then we will prevail over him
 and take our revenge on him.”

11

But the **LORD is with me** like a mighty warrior;
 so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.
They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;
 their dishonor will never be forgotten.

12

LORD Almighty, **you who examine the righteous**
 and probe the heart and mind,
let me see your vengeance on them,
 for to you I have committed my cause.

13

Sing to the LORD!
 Give praise to the LORD!
He rescues the life of the needy
 from the hands of the wicked.

14

Cursed be the day I was born!
 May the day my mother bore me not be blessed!

15

Cursed be the man who brought my father the news,
 who made him very glad, saying,
 “A child is born to you—a son!”

16

May that man be like the towns
the LORD overthrew without pity.
May he hear wailing in the morning,
a battle cry at noon.

17

For he did not kill me in the womb,
with my mother as my grave,
her womb enlarged forever.

18

Why did I ever come out of the womb
to see trouble and sorrow
and to end my days in shame?