

Life Group Discussion Guide: The Personalness of God (Week 2)

Scripture Focus: Jeremiah 1:4-19

This guide is designed to help our groups practice the mission of the church together through the framework of **Up, In, and Out**. Whether you are a new group or have been together for years, use these questions to spur one another toward our shared vision.

Ice Breakers: Breaking the Ice

Goal: To get people comfortable sharing and thinking about their own identity and history.

1. What is the story behind your name? Do you know why your parents chose it?
2. When you were a child, what did you "dream" you would be when you grew up?
3. If you had to describe your personality using only three words, what would they be?
4. Who is one person in your life who truly *knows* you—even the parts you don't show everyone else?
5. What is one "impossible" thing you've seen God do in your life or the life of someone you know?

UP: Connecting with God

Goal: To focus on God's character, His sovereignty, and His intimate knowledge of us.

1. **Jeremiah 1:5** says God "knew" Jeremiah before he was formed. How does it change your prayer life to realize God isn't "getting to know you," but already knows you perfectly?
2. God tells Jeremiah, "Do not be afraid... for I am with you" (**Jeremiah 1:8**). Why is God's presence the ultimate cure for our insecurities?
3. In verse 9, the Lord reaches out and touches Jeremiah's mouth. What does this physical gesture tell us about the "personalness" of God?
4. How do we reconcile the "Personal God" who knows our names with the "Almighty God" who judges nations (as seen in the vision of the boiling pot, **v. 13**)?
5. Looking at **Jeremiah 1:17-19**, God promises to make Jeremiah a "fortified city." How have you experienced God personally strengthening your character during a trial?

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Psalms 139:13-16:** On God's intimate involvement in our creation.
- **Isaiah 43:1:** "I have called you by name; you are mine."

IN: Connecting with the Life Group

Goal: To foster vulnerability, encouragement, and community growth.

1. Jeremiah's first reaction to God's call was, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young" (v. 6). What are the common "excuses" we share within this group when we feel God nudging us to step out?
2. How can we as a Life Group better remind each other of our "consecrated" (set apart) identity when the world tries to label us differently?
3. God gave Jeremiah a community of sorts by promising to be his deliverer. How can we practically "deliver" or support one another when someone in the group is facing a "boiling pot" season (v. 13)?
4. Verse 17 tells Jeremiah to "Get ready." How can we help "gird up" one another's loins (prepare each other) for the spiritual battles we face this week?
5. Since God is personal with us, how can we be more "personal" and less "surface-level" with one another in our discussions?

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Galatians 6:2:** On bearing one another's burdens.
 - **Hebrews 10:24-25:** On stirring one another up to love and good works.
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OUT: Connecting with the World

Goal: To turn the personal revelation of God into a mission for those outside the church.

1. God appointed Jeremiah as a "prophet to the nations" (v. 5). Who are the "nations" or specific groups of people in our local community that God might be calling our group to reach?
2. Many people in our city feel invisible or unknown. How can we share the truth that God *knows* them personally?
3. Jeremiah was called to speak to people who might oppose him (v. 18-19). In what "uncomfortable" places is God calling you to represent Him this week (work, neighborhood, etc.)?
4. If God "formed" everyone, how should that change the way we treat the marginalized or those we find difficult to love?
5. The vision of the almond tree (v. 11-12) signifies God is "watching" to perform His word. How can we demonstrate to our neighbors that God is active and alive today, not just a figure in a history book?

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Matthew 28:18-20:** The Great Commission (the ultimate "Out" call).
- **Acts 1:8:** Being witnesses to the ends of the earth.