

Trinity Anglican Church, Sarnia
Advent Bible Study – 2021. Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love
With Canon Vicars Hodge

Week #1. Jeremiah 33: 1--22

Question #1. Jeremiah lived at a crossroads of history: at the end of Judah's independence and the dawn of the Babylonian Captivity. His times were dark, tumultuous, dangerous, confusing and hopeless.

- **Do you think we live in similar times? What is happening in our world that make it feel like a new and dangerous time? Like old certainties are unravelling?**

Question 2. When God gave Moses the 10 Commandments – he described himself as “*a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...*”. More than nine-hundred years of disobedience passed between God's gift of the covenant with Israel and the deporting of the Chosen People to Babylon.

- **How does this aspect of God's character speak to you? Does it give you hope? Assurance? Encouragement?**

Question 3. God's promises through Jeremiah of a restored Kingdom and Priesthood find fulfillment only in Jesus Christ, the one of whom the Angel Gabriel said: ³²*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,* ³³*and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” (Lk1:32-33)*

- **What difference does it make in your life that Jesus is the King? Jesus is the Great High Priest?**

Question 4. The Apostle Peter said that God, “in his great mercy has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pe.1 3-4)

- **If you feel comfortable, share how this assurance been true in your own life – in your own experience?**

Group Norms to enhance our experience

- **Try to make regular attendance a priority..**
- **Try to stay “on topic.”** Stick to the passage being studied. Seek to find the answers in the text.
- **Everyone participates and no one dominates.** Sometimes we are so eager to share what we have learned that we don't leave room for others. By all means participate – but leave space for others. Don't think you need to verbalize your answer to every question.
- **Be sensitive to the other members of the Group.** We respect each other and can all learn from each other. There are no ‘dumb’ questions.
- **Support for one another is part of our life** as followers of Jesus.
- **Confidentiality matters:** When someone shares something of private nature, that stays in the group. We tell our own stores, if we want – not other people's.

Suggestions for getting the most out of a LIFE Group

Everyone

- Try to read the passage we will study in advance of our meeting.
- Bring an attitude of expectancy – God wants to open his Word for you and me.... Come expecting to receive some good word.
- Stay in touch with each other during the week, where appropriate.

People who want more....

- Pre-read the questions and think about them a bit.
- Read more of Jeremiah if you can. Recommended translations: (ESV, NRSV, NASB, NIV, TPT)
- Each week, after the study, re-read the passage & questions– to reinforce what you have learned.

The Keepers – looking for an A+

- Read Jeremiah through in a second, different translation like “The Message” (MSG), New Living Translation (NLT),
- Make a list of questions you would like answered and send them to trinity@trinitysarnia.org