

Discussion Guide - Jeremiah 17

Read Jeremiah 17:5-6

1. According to this passage, what are the consequences of placing our trust in people rather than in God?
2. How would you define **idolatry**?
3. What are some things that people commonly idolize today?
4. When idolatry begins to take root in your life, do you typically recognize it yourself, or does someone else help bring it to your attention?
 - a. Who has served as a “Jeremiah” in your life, someone who has spoken difficult truths, challenged you, or lovingly confronted sin?
5. Why is it important for believers to confront sin in themselves and in one another?

Read Jeremiah 17:7-8

6. What is the difference between trusting in the Lord and making the Lord your trust?
7. According to this passage, the person who trusts in the Lord is like a tree that continually bears fruit. What kinds of fruit grow out of a life of trust in God?
8. We often assume that being blessed means living a comfortable life free from hardship. If that was your perspective before the teaching, how has your understanding of blessing changed?
9. Worldly sources of security can be lost. Compare the response of someone whose trust is in the world with the response of someone whose trust is rooted in the Lord.

Read Jeremiah 17:9-10

10. What stands out to you about the fact that God searches both our hearts and our minds?
 - a. Is this truth encouraging, convicting, or both? Explain.
11. Why do you think it is so difficult for us to accurately evaluate our own spiritual condition?

12. If God alone can truly search the heart, what does that tell us about our need for Scripture, prayer, the Holy Spirit, and Christian community?

Read Jeremiah 17:11

13. Jeremiah compares dishonest wealth to a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay. The image points to a person who gains riches unjustly, only to lose them and be exposed as a fool.
- Why do you think Jeremiah chose a picture from nature rather than simply giving a command about wealth?
 - Where else in Scripture do we see the theme of wealth failing to provide lasting security? (*For example, the Rich Fool in Luke 12:13-21.*)
14. Sinful hearts often justify almost anything except surrender. What is one possession, ambition, relationship, habit, or fear that God may be asking you to surrender?

Prayer Prompts

- Trusting in God instead of human strength
- Protection of the heart from idolatry, finding fulfillment in God
- Adopting an eternal perspective
- Correction of insincere motives
- Instilling a spirit of generosity within us