

LIFEGROUP NOTES: JEREMIAH 36 and 45

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

1. What is your level of excitement about owning a Bible and being able to read it as much as you like? Why? Be honest!
2. **Read Jer 36:1-10.** Why do you think God wanted His word to be written down (v.2)? What is the goal of God's word (v.3; compare 2Timothy 3:15-17)? How do you react to God's patience in giving people yet another chance to hear Jeremiah's message which they have already heard and rejected for 23 years?
3. **Read Jer 36:11-26.** How did the officials mentioned in v.12 react when God's word was read to them (vv.16-19)? How did the king react (v.23)? Which reaction to God's word is closer to your own? Are there ways in which we "trim" the Scriptures if we don't like the message?
4. **Read Jer 36:27-32.** What steps did God take to preserve His word? What judgement did He pronounce on the king? Reflect on this in the light of Jesus' words in Mk 13:31. What lesson should we learn, and how should this incident direct the way we live?
5. **Read Jer 45:1-5.** What insights are we given here into Baruch's thoughts and feelings as a servant of God's word (vv.3,5)? What is God's response in vv.4-5? In what ways are you torn between the sacrifice involved in wholehearted Christian commitment on the one hand, and following a more self-centred agenda on the other? How does Christ's love for us shape our thinking and motivate our hearts (see Php 2:5-11)?

Responding in Prayer

- Confess to God any areas where you have been following the world rather than His word. Thank God for the precious gift of the Scriptures and pray for a renewed delight in our Father's word.

Eddie Larkman, November 2016