



### **Rise Above Discouragement (Jeremiah 20:1-13)**

1. As you read our Scripture verses today, which themes or words particularly challenge or surprise you? Why?
2. Put yourself in Jeremiah's shoes. How would you feel after passionately pouring out your heart on behalf of God, passionately pursuing his call, and seeing little or no fruit/response?
3. Have you ever had a similar life experience yourself? How did you respond then? What emotions did you contend with?
4. When disappointed or angry, where/who do you go to or what do you do to process your emotions? Does God feature?
5. Have you ever been as honest with God as Jeremiah is in verses 7-11? If you feel able, share the circumstances of your situation. If not, why not?
6. Why, do you think, does Pashhur treat Jeremiah so badly? Note: Jeremiah had been prophesying about the destruction of the temple (where Pashhur was employed) and against hypocrisy. What do you make of Jeremiah's response in verse 3? Should we respond similarly if persecuted?
7. Jeremiah's lament does not end at verse 10 with negativity. Would it be a problem if it did?
8. Dissect verses 11-13. Which themes give you comfort or even cause you concern? Why?
9. What do you make of verse 9 with regard to the fire in Jeremiah's bones? How does this relate to last weekend's message about passion and call into mission/ministry?
10. How honest is your relationship with God? Honestly! Compare David's words in Psalm 13 with Jeremiah's lament. What are the similarities and/or differences in how they each approach God? How might this inform or challenge your own relationship with God?
11. How does Jeremiah's lament and Psalm 13 speak into an appropriate response to all that we currently face as a nation/world confronting a pandemic?