

Scripture and Background Information for May 13-19

Group members should use these scriptures to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns in our new Discussion Guide. This assignment should take less than 30 minutes.

The Scripture for your group to study and discuss during the week of May 13-19 is JEREMIAH 17:5-8

Background Information

This is the final week in our series called "Silent Killers." We are looking at four things that can be the silent killers of the Abundant Life that Jesus offers. Worry, loneliness, guilt and insecurity are not the most obvious obstacles to the life of faith in Christ, yet they can be deadly to our souls. This week, we are looking at insecurity.

Before Sunday, May 20, we would like each group member to personally study Jeremiah 17:5-8 and to discuss it as a group.

Jeremiah would have known more than a little about insecurity. In fact, he would have had the opportunity to live and minister while being plagued by all of the factors that we have been looking at over the past few weeks—worry, loneliness, guilt, and insecurity.

Jeremiah was called by God to preach to his own nation. In Jeremiah 1, we gain insight into his personal insecurities when God calls him, and he claims, "I don't know how to speak; I am too young." But just as God called him, God also equipped him to do His work. He went with confidence in God's call to preach to Israel. He warned them, instructed them, and served as God's mouthpiece in order to turn the nation back to God—all while being persecuted, mocked, and plotted against for his own life.

In this God-centered confidence in his calling, Jeremiah gave a typical charge to the people of Israel in Jeremiah 17:5-8. Written much like Psalm 1, God communicates through Jeremiah to convey what He values by showing a bad example (v5-6) and a good example (v7-8). It is impossible to imagine Jeremiah sharing these words as an ignorant, ill-equipped youth. Instead, we see a God-centered, God-equipped man of wisdom who is given confidence by the God who called him.