



## Week #1: Calling and Excuses

*The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> The word of the Lord came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, <sup>3</sup> and though the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.*

<sup>4</sup> *The word of the Lord came to me, saying,*

<sup>5</sup> *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”*

<sup>6</sup> *“Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”*

<sup>7</sup> *But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.*

<sup>9</sup> *Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”*

Jeremiah 1:1-10 (NIV)

**Jeremiah lives in an** \_\_\_\_\_ . (v 1-3)

- Political \_\_\_\_\_ .
- International \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Religious \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Jeremiah is given an \_\_\_\_\_.** (v 4-5)

Jeremiah's Calling (*God's "I" Statements to Jeremiah*)

- I \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ you.

**Jeremiah gives the \_\_\_\_\_.** (v 6)

Jeremiah's Excuses (*Jeremiah's "I" Statements to God*)

- I am not \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am not \_\_\_\_\_.

**Jeremiah receives God's \_\_\_\_\_.** (v 7-9)

- Do not \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am \_\_\_\_\_.
- I will \_\_\_\_\_.
- I have put my words in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Jeremiah is given a message that God will \_\_\_\_\_.** (v10)

- Jeremiah is pointing us to \_\_\_\_\_ (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

### Discussion Questions

1. How do you respond when you feel called to a task that seems beyond your capabilities?
2. In what ways can you remind yourself of God's presence and support when facing challenges?
3. What steps can you take to be more open to God's direction and guidance in your life?
4. How can you cultivate the confidence that God equips those He calls, despite their perceived weaknesses?

### Recommended Resources

- [eastlake.church/jeremiah](http://eastlake.church/jeremiah)
- [Jeremiah Overview Video](#); BibleProject YouTube.com
- [A Guide to the Book of Jeremiah](#); The Bible Project Guides

### Recommended Books

- *Unshakable Hope: Building Our Lives on the Promises of God*, by Max Lucado
- *Visions of Vocation: Common Grace for the Common Good*, by Steven Garber
- *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*, by Parker J. Palmer

(NIV) New International Version

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Jeremiah 1:1-10 (NIV)

### **Jeremiah lives in an unsettled world.** (v 1-3)

- Political transition.
- International tension.
- Religious confusion.

### **Jeremiah is given an unshakable purpose.** (v 4-5)

Jeremiah's Calling (*God's "I" Statements to Jeremiah*)

- I formed you.
- I knew you.
- I consecrated you.
- I appointed you.

### **Jeremiah gives the usual excuses.** (v 6)

Jeremiah's Excuses (*Jeremiah's "I" Statements to God*)

- I am not skilled enough.

- I am not old enough.

**Jeremiah receives God's unyielding promises.** (v 7-9)

- Do not be afraid.
- I am with you.
- I will rescue you.
- I have put my words in your mouth.

**Jeremiah is given a message that God will uproot to replant.** (v10)

- Jeremiah is pointing us to Jesus. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

**Discussion Questions**

1. How do you respond when you feel called to a task that seems beyond your capabilities?
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