

Sermon Notes, January 31, 2010  
**Love in Hard Places**  
Jeremiah chapter 1

**The latest on sermons**

**Wake up!**

No balm in Gilead

**Big Idea:** God calls and empowers us to love even in the most \_\_\_\_\_ of circumstances.

1. **We are \_\_\_\_\_ people in \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances.**  
(1:1-3)

2. **We are \_\_\_\_\_** (1:4-8)

**Elements of a call from God**

Divine initiative

Protest

Reaction

Divine reassurance

Commission

3. **We are \_\_\_\_\_** (1:9-19)

**So what?**

I Peter 4:7-8: The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

\_\_\_\_\_ rightly

\_\_\_\_\_ rightly

# Sermon-based Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 31, 2010

## Jeremiah chapter 1

**Icebreaker:** It is said that the sweetest sounding word in the English language is your name. Tell your group about your name. Or, what stories about your birth have you been told?

1. From the text and sermon, what can you deduce about Jeremiah's family of origin? What is significant about it?
2. Jeremiah prophesied throughout the reign of Josiah. What kind of king was he? (2 Kings 22:1-2) How do you suppose Jeremiah felt about Josiah?
3. How do you suppose the voice of the Lord came to Jeremiah? (Verse 2)
4. God's relationship with Jeremiah seems to go back quite some time (verse 5). Just how involved was God? What does that say about the value of your life?
5. Why did Jeremiah respond to God's call the way he did (verse 6)? Was he justified? What does that tell us about youth at St. Paul's?
6. Jeremiah knew from the very beginning that his message would be hard to swallow. What did the boiling pot represent? (Verses 14-16)
7. Jeremiah preached his prophetic message for many, many years. What impact did his repetitive message have on the people (verse 19)? How does that make you feel about speaking up about the message of the gospel?
8. Jeremiah warned the people of Judah about how they had become insensitive to sin in their lives and in their nation. How can it happen?  
True or False
  - a. \_\_\_ Some sins that once shocked me no longer bother me as much.
  - b. \_\_\_ I frequently see people in the world around me portrayed as ashamed for sinful things they have done.
  - c. \_\_\_ The less shame I feel, the less likely I am to change my behavior.
  - d. \_\_\_ I sometimes tolerate certain sins in my life because I have done them so long.
9. Where can you find love in Jeremiah's heart and message?
10. The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news and hopeful. So why do you think people are resistant to it? Is it loving to share the gospel?
11. What was Jeremiah to do in the face of opposition (Verse 17)? How should a believer respond to opposition at the mention Jesus Christ?
12. Is the promise of God's presence (verses 8 & 19) something you can depend upon today? Why? Is your confidence growing?
13. Jeremiah got discouraged and depressed at times in his ministry. Do you ever get down concerning the disregard for God and his Word in our culture? Is it unspiritual to feel bad?
14. I Peter 4:7-8 admonishes us to have clear minds and to love one another. What suggestions do you have to improve in these areas?

### Prayer

Pray for boldness to speak up in love when appropriate.

Pray for Haitians and those working in Haiti.

Pray for one another.