

RUN WITH THE HORSES

Jeremiah Series Guide
Part 1



WEEK 1

Series Summary

Welcome to the Summer at Grace Series, "Run With the Horses." For the next 10 weeks, we will be adventuring through the book of Jeremiah as a church and including commentary from Eugene Peterson's book "Run with the Horses." God is calling us as a church and as individuals to a higher level of living, not to run the footrace of men but to run with the horses. Jeremiah answered this call not with words but with his life. The question is...will you run with the horses? Join us for this 10-week series to discover what this questions means.

Sermon Notes:

"So, Jeremiah, if you're worn out in this footrace with men, what makes you think you can race against horses?"

Jeremiah 12:5

"Man, fully alive is the glory of God."

St Irenaeus

"Culture changes when a small group of people finds a better way to live and the rest of us copy them."

David Brooks

Commentary

The puzzle is why so many people live so badly. Not so wickedly, but so inanely. Not so cruelly, but so stupidly. There is little to admire and less to imitate in the people who are prominent in our culture. We have celebrities but not saints. Famous entertainers amuse a nation of bored insomniacs. Infamous criminals act out the aggressions of timid conformists. Petulant and spoiled athletes play games vicariously for lazy and apathetic spectators. People, aimless and bored, amuse themselves with trivia and trash. Neither the adventure of goodness nor the pursuit of righteousness gets headlines.

Eugene Peterson, *Run With The Horses*, (Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2009), p. 12.

Life is difficult, Jeremiah. Are you going to quit at the first wave of opposition? Are you going to retreat when you find that there is more to life than finding three meals a day and a dry place to sleep at night? Are you going to run home the minute you find that the mass of men and women are more interested in keeping their feet warm than in living at risk to the glory of God? Are you going to live cautiously or courageously? I called you to live at your best, to pursue righteousness, to sustain a drive toward excellence. It is easier, I know, to be neurotic. It is easier to be parasitic. It is easier to relax in the embracing arms of The Average. Easier, but not better. Easier, but not more significant. Easier, but not more fulfilling. I called you to a life of purpose far beyond what you think yourself capable of living and promised you adequate strength to fulfill your destiny. Now at the first sign of difficulty you are ready to quit. If you are fatigued by this run-of-the-mill crowd of apathetic mediocrities, what will you do when the real race starts, the race with the swift and determined horses of excellence? What is it you really want, Jeremiah? Do you want to shuffle along with this crowd, or run with the horses?

Eugene Peterson, *Run With The Horses*, (Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2009), p. 19-20.

Small Group Guide

This section is to be used to turn the message into a small group. Gather up some people, find a space to meet, and use this as a guide.

Connect with each other, introduce yourself, and share a bit about who you are.

Summarize. Take turns summarizing the message in your own words. Allow everyone to participate in summarizing the message. Not a personal application yet, just take turns summarizing the message and build it in its entirety. Make sure you as a small group leader are filling in any gaps, the main point, scripture, and the end of the message.

Personal. This section will allow you to go deeper and be sensitive to God's activity in people's lives. Ask questions and facilitate questions around what God is saying and doing in the lives of the people you're leading. What did you get out of it and why? Go over the main scriptures from the message.

Application. Take this time to ask what everyone will be doing with what they heard from the message. (add discussion questions here) What will you do with what you heard? From what you heard out of the message what is God asking you to be or do?

Pray. Take some time to pray with each other.

Jeremiah Reading Plan:

Join our entire church family in reading through the book of Jeremiah together.

Jeremiah 1-5 and Jeremiah 12

Context:

The overall context of the story of Jeremiah can be found in reading 2 Kings 22-25 and 2 Chronicles 34-36.



Series inspired by "Run With The Horses".
Peterson, Eugene. *Run With The Horses*. Illinois: Intersivity Press, 2009.