Study Guide: A Wednesday Night Study of Jeremiah 17

March 11, 2026

This study guide is based on the lesson "A Wednesday Lesson - March 11, 2026," which explores the prophetic warnings of Jeremiah, the consequences of relying on human strength, and the blessings found in total reliance on the Lord.

Part I: Short-Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2–3 sentences each based on the provided text.

1. What is the stated mission of the Lighthouse Medical Missions?
2. Describe the medical situation and subsequent recovery of the speaker's brother, Terry.
3. Who is Sarah, and what was significant about her 20-day stay at the hospital?
4. What circumstances led to Peralta's emergency surgery, and how did he describe the recovery process?
5. Why is the prophet Jeremiah historically referred to as the "weeping prophet"?
6. According to the lesson's analysis of Jeremiah 17:1, what do the "pen of iron" and the "point of a diamond" signify?
7. What were the specific spiritual and social sins of Judah that led to the pronouncement of a curse?
8. How does the scripture describe the "heritage" of the people of Judah and the consequences of their disobedience regarding that heritage?
9. Describe the metaphor of the tree in Jeremiah 17:8 and what it represents for a believer.
10. What does the speaker conclude about the relationship between his personal struggle with anxiety and his proximity to the Lord?

Part II: Answer Key

1. Lighthouse Medical Missions consists of volunteers who provide medical treatment to those in need. Their secondary, yet central, goal is to care for and heal people through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Terry underwent extreme abdominal surgery and was initially expected by surgeons to either die during the procedure or require immediate hospice care. However, following the prayers of the church, he made a miraculous turnaround and was eventually expected to return home.
3. Sarah is a woman whose husband, Chris, has been a quadriplegic since the age of 16. Despite being at the hospital for 20 days to care for him during an abdominal crisis, she maintained a joyful spirit and noted that the speaker was the first person to offer to pray with her during her entire stay.
4. Peralta suffered from appendicitis and required an emergency appendectomy while on spring break. He maintained a positive attitude, comparing the post-surgical discomfort to a "hard ab workout" and using his time in the hospital to fellowship with a Christian nurse.
5. Jeremiah is called the "weeping prophet" because his ministry was characterized by profound grief and sorrow over the persistent disobedience of the people of Judah. He was tasked with delivering gloomy messages of judgment and witnessed the tragic destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon.
6. These tools signify the permanence of the record of sin and the extreme hardness of the hearts of the people. The implication is that only a diamond-pointed pen could inscribe anything on hearts so resistant to God's word.
7. The sins of Judah included flagrant idolatry, such as the sacrifice of children to the god Molech, and the abandonment of God, who is described as a "fountain of living water." Additionally, the people broke the Sabbath and placed their trust in human alliances and physical strength rather than in the Lord.
8. The heritage refers to the land of Israel, a wonderful possession and inheritance given by God. Because of their sins, the people were told they would forfeit this land and be forced into exile to serve their enemies in a land they did not know.
9. The tree represents a man who trusts in the Lord; it is planted by waters and spreads its roots by the river. Such a person does not fear the heat or drought but remains green and continues to yield fruit regardless of external circumstances.
10. The speaker notes that while man-made psychological solutions were ineffective for his anxiety, he experienced a total absence of those feelings when he stayed closest to the Lord. He views this peace of mind as a tangible "fruit" of a life lived in submission to Jesus Christ.

Part III: Essay Questions

Instructions: Use the themes and scriptures discussed in the lesson to provide comprehensive responses to the following prompts.

1. **The Nature of Flesh vs. Spirit:** Contrast the "cursed" man in Jeremiah 17:5 with the "blessed" man in Jeremiah 17:7. Discuss how relying on human ingenuity and "flesh" leads to spiritual barrenness, using the metaphor of the desert shrub.
2. **Generational Sin and Reform:** Analyze the cycle of sin in Judah as described through the reigns of King Ahaz, Hezekiah, and Manasseh. How does the lesson apply the concept of "generational sin" to modern family dynamics and parenting?
3. **The Sovereignty and Anger of God:** The lesson notes that the God of the Old Testament is the same as the God of the New Testament. Discuss the "divine anger" described in Jeremiah and why the intercession of Jesus Christ is necessary to avoid the judgment described in the text.
4. **The Role of Discernment and the Holy Spirit:** Explore the speaker's assertion that "the Lord will never create a life for us that makes Him unnecessary." How does the Holy Spirit act as a "Helper" in providing discernment and liberty from life's various bondages?
5. **Fruitfulness in Adversity:** Using the examples of Paul writing the New Testament in jail, the woman in the ICU, and Peralta's surgery, discuss how a believer can "thrive" rather than just "exist" during times of "heat" or "drought."

Part IV: Glossary of Key Terms

- **Asherah Poles:** Objects of wood used in the worship of false deities, associated with the idolatry of the people of Judah.
- **Babylon:** The empire predicted by Jeremiah to destroy Jerusalem and carry the people into exile as a judgment for their sins.
- **Covenant:** A formal, solemn agreement between God and His people; the breaking of this covenant through idolatry led to Judah's destruction.
- **Discernment:** The spiritual ability to perceive the direction and instruction of the Lord in the moment, necessitating a walk in the Spirit.
- **Exile:** The state of being barred from one's native country; specifically, the removal of the Israelites to a land occupied by their enemies.
- **Flesh:** A term used to describe human strength, ingenuity, and nature apart from God; relying on it is described as "cursed."
- **Heritage:** The land of Israel and the spiritual inheritance given to the people by God, which was forfeited due to persistent disobedience.

- **Idolatry:** The worship of false gods and images; in the text, this included child sacrifice and the setting up of altars on high hills.
- **Iniquity:** Immoral or grossly unfair behavior; described as being "engraved on the tablets of the heart" of the people of Judah.
- **Molech:** A false god to whom the people of Judah sacrificed their children in the valley of Hinnom.
- **The Weeping Prophet:** A title for Jeremiah, whose ministry was defined by sorrow over the inevitable judgment of his people.

Part V: Scriptural References (NKJV)

- **Philippians 4:13:** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
- **Jeremiah 17:1:** "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; With the point of a diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, And on the horns of your altars."
- **Jeremiah 17:5:** "Thus says the LORD: 'Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD.'"
- **Jeremiah 17:7:** "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD."
- **Jeremiah 17:8:** "For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will it cease from yielding fruit."
- **1 John 1:9:** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- **Titus 2:11–12:** "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age."
- **John 14:26:** "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."
- **2 Corinthians 3:17:** "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."