

# SORROW + HOPE

A STUDY OF JEREMIAH & LAMENTATIONS

SEPTEMBER 19

## Sermon Outline

### Key verse

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

### How to persevere in obedience

1. Stand by your convictions

*Then King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah and had him brought to the palace, where he asked him privately, "Is there any word from the Lord?" "Yes," Jeremiah replied, "you will be delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon."*

Jeremiah 37:17

2. Don't lose hope

*Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old.*

Lamentations 5:21

## PERSEVERE IN OBEDIENCE

### Opening Thought

The prophet Jeremiah faithfully proclaimed God's message to his people. But they didn't obey. They opposed him and persecuted him. He was beaten, put in stocks, imprisoned in a dungeon, and thrown down an empty cistern. Yet, he kept doing what God had called him to do. No matter how many times he was knocked down, he got back up. He persevered in obedience. We too can find hope in knowing that God will not abandon us.

### Icebreaker

- Do you have an all-time favorite NFL running back?

### Dig deeper

#### SUMMARY OF JEREMIAH'S PRISON EXPERIENCE

- He is arrested in the gate and committed to a dungeon on the false charge of treason (Jeremiah 37:11-15).
- He is released from the dungeon, but restricted to the courtyard of the guard (Jeremiah 37:17-21).
- He is imprisoned in the cistern of Malkijah (Jeremiah 38:6).
- He is again released and kept in the prison courtyard until the capture of the city (Jeremiah 38:17-28).
- He is released by Nebuzaradan (captain of the guard) who says he is free to come to Babylon or stay in Judah. (Jeremiah 39:11-14, 40:1-4).

### Discussion

- What is one thing the Lord spoke to you today?
- Do you find it difficult to keep doing the right thing when you don't see the impact it is making?
- What did God promise Jeremiah when he first called him? (See Jeremiah 1:19) How might that have helped Jeremiah to persevere in obedience?

### Closing

- When life takes an unpleasant turn, stop and consider that God could actually be using it for your benefit.
- Don't be afraid to step into the places that God is leading you.