

**Sunday, August 21, 2022 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Bible Study – Jeremiah 1:4-10

“I Knew You”

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes)

In groups of two or three, respond to the following, “When was a time that you had high expectations only to be let down?”

Jeremiah 1:4-10. Context. Jeremiah's career as a prophet spanned some 40 years of Israel's history (ca. 627 - 587 BCE), from one of its most glorious moments under King Josiah -- who had reclaimed the territory of the northern Kingdom taken by the Assyrians in the 720s BCE and who had also reformed and renewed the worship of the Lord at Jerusalem -- to its most crushing experience: the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem and of the exile of the people to Babylon. Jeremiah was from a priestly family living in the town of Anathoth, just outside Jerusalem. The "priestly" character of the town went back to Abiathar, one of David's chief priests who settled there over 300 years before and who traced his lineage to Eli, the high priest who had tended the ark of the covenant at Shiloh in the days before Israel had a king. Jeremiah's status in the religious establishment did not guarantee that his prophecy would be well received. Indeed, like several other prophets, Jeremiah nearly lost his life on account of his speaking out on behalf of the Lord. This week's reading gives an account of Jeremiah's call by God. Like Moses, Samuel, Isaiah, and others before him, God's call on him was not a matter of his choosing.

Read Jeremiah 1:4-10

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn't make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read Isaiah 1:4-10 again

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- How might Jeremiah have felt when the Lord revealed to Jeremiah the extent to which the Lord knew him?

- Why do you think Jeremiah pointed to his inadequacies in verse 6? Do we do something similar when called upon by God?
- How does Jeremiah's response recall other biblical figures' responses to God's call? [See Solomon's response in 1 Kings 3:7; Moses in Exodus 3-4; and Isaiah in Isaiah 44:1-2.]
- To whom is Jeremiah appointed to be a prophet? [See Verse 10]
- As Christians who are empowered by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 10:18-20), how are we (individually and collectively) like Jeremiah (v. 9)?
- **(R)** What does this passage tell us about God's knowledge of us (individually and collectively)? What does this passage tell us about the role of the community of believers as prophets to the nations?

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, end by praying the following or a similar prayer:

God of all nations, you call your church to be a light on a hill. Empower us to be the church you call us to be. Give us not only the words to speak life but also the hands of comfort and the arms of care that others might discover they are known and loved by you. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.