

Aveleigh's Year of The Bible, Sunday Aug. 19 2018

Sermon Series LIVING THE LIFE

Sermon Title: JEREMIAH, RESILIENCE AND HOPE AGAIN

Texts: Jeremiah 29:1-11 p.845

Call to worship

We gather gratefully to worship,

because we are conscious of God's blessing.

We gather expectantly because we know that God has a fresh word for us.

We gather joyfully, because the joy of the Lord, like a river, runs deep and strong in our spirit.

We gather hopefully because we know our God is a great and awesome God.

Come then, grateful, expectant, joyful and hopeful people! Let us worship God!

Prayer of confession

Living God the Heavenly Potter, We are clay formed by your hands,

We are fired in the kiln of Your love, You make us ready vessels promising to fill us with

Your Living Love, Your Water of Life, and Your Holy Word. You've formed us ready to receive,

Open and empty. You gave us and give us life, Yet we sometimes live in ways that scratch our pretty glaze,

Or crack our forms, until we're chipped and broken, Leaking love, lacking true life.

Forgive us, O God, if we misused this gift Of life and love you have given us.

Repair us, make us whole again, that we might Be for you, your soulful useful art.

Amen.

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Jeremiah's Background, He lived during the most crucial period of Judah's existence as a kingdom. He saw the destruction of Jerusalem and the holy Temple, after he had incessantly warned his people to mend their ways before it was too late. And when the catastrophe finally overwhelmed his people, he was the one who bitterly lamented Israel's terrible fate in the Book of Lamentations. At the same time, he proved to be a true friend in need, by helping his stricken people to bear the blow with courage and dignity, and by pointing out to them the path that would lead to resilience and hope renewed.

1. LIFE IS HARDER THAN YOU EVER EXPECTED.

2. GOD GIVES YOU RESOURCES TO COPE WITH LIFE.

3. YOU GET TO CHOOSE YOUR RESPONSES IN LIFE.

- choose to expand your connections.
- Believe that you are capable in God's strength of handling anything.
- Avoid expecting the worst.
- Practice self-care. & Seek self-discovery.
- Practice gratitude.

Decide today that nothing can defeat you in Christ.

PRAYER: Living God,
Give us the gift of resilience,
Grant us renewing of hope daily,
That we might live the life of faith. AMEN

FOUR FOR THE ROAD AHEAD:

1. Resilience is the ability to recover quickly and is a skill to be developed. Why would this ability be important in this world and in what ways can it be established?
2. Share an expectation that was not fulfilled and how that disappointment made you more resilient.
3. What are some self-care practices you use to build resilience?
4. Share a story with your group about how you were brave in the midst of your trouble and found peace of mind again.