

# Jeremiah 35



## The Text – Jeremiah 35

1. Read Jeremiah 35. What stands out about this family of Rechabites? Why are they in Jerusalem?
2. What is the purpose of the dinner that Jeremiah organises?
3. How does God use the Rechabites? What do they reveal about the people of Judah?
4. God commends the Rechabites for being faithful. Who or what were they being faithful to? Why is this commendable?
5. The Rechabite forefather, Jehonadab, gave his family some strange rules. What do you think the purpose of these rules were?
6. Read the summary of Baal worship below this study. Jehonadab fought against the worshipper of Baal zealously. What insight might this give to these rules?
7. In what ways do you think the lifestyle and culture of the Rechabites helped them to be a faithful presence?
8. What is God's response to Judah and to the Rechabites? How does this response relate to the promises mentioned of 'living long in the land'?

## The Scriptures – Jeremiah as a portion of the Scriptures

1. Read Ephesians 5:1-20. What does it look like for the church to be a faithful presence in the world? How does this compare to the story of the Rechabites?
2. Read John 17:13-19. What does this teach about the relationship of God's people with the world's culture?

## Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Jeremiah 35 as a portion of the Scriptures

1. Name some ways in which the culture we live in makes it difficult to live faithfully to God
2. What are some important practices for being formed as God's people when the cultural forces can be so potent?
3. How does/could the church community help each other to be a faithful presence in the world?

## Information of Baal worship:

The most prevalent religious system in the immediate Canaanite context of Israelite culture was the worship of Ba'al. A network of mythical stories that attempted to explain in narrative the nature of the physical world supported this religious system. As with most myths, the entire story is complex, varying in details and emphasis between peoples. The basic features, however, are fairly simple. Ba'al religion revolved around the cycles of nature necessary for survival and prosperity in the ancient world, primarily growing crops or raising livestock, as well as the growth of human populations. Not surprisingly, in an arid and agriculturally marginal area of the world the fertility of land and crops played a large role in Canaanite world view. Also as expected, water was a major element of the myth and its images.